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No. 104

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 15, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize June as National Dairy Month.

National Dairy Month began as National Milk Month in 1937. Now it has developed into an annual tradition that celebrates the contributions the dairy industry has made to the world.

Milk contains nine essential nutrients which may help reduce your risk

of high blood pressure, osteoporosis, and certain cancers; yet dairy products, particularly milk, continue to be unfairly demonized.

Coming from a long line of dairy farmers, I understand the impact that this decrease in milk consumption has caused. Not only does it hurt our dairy industry, but it has also resulted in the loss of an entire generation of milk drinkers, which has negatively impacted their health.

That is why I introduced the Whole Milk For Healthy Kids Act in March of this year with the gentleman from New York, Mr. ANTONIO DELGADO. This bill addresses the importance of providing both flavored and unflavored whole milk in school cafeterias.

This builds upon the efforts from the School Milk Nutrition Act, which allows for flavored and unflavored 1 percent milk to return as an option for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

Last month, Mr. JOE COURTNEY and I led a bipartisan coalition of 55 Members of Congress from across the country in writing a letter to Secretary Vilsack of the USDA. This letter urged him to codify the efforts to continue to provide schools the option to offer low-fat flavored or unflavored milk.

Whether it is protein to help build and repair the muscle tissues of active bodies or vitamin A to help maintain healthy skin, dairy products are a natural nutrient powerhouse.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to sign on to my bill, the Whole Milk For Healthy Kids Act, during National Dairy Month and allow our students the option of consuming the type of milk that they love.

And this month, when you pour a glass of milk, enjoy a cheese board, or cool down with some ice cream, remember the hardworking dairy farmers and farm families who made that possible.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COURTNEY ANN NEALE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Courtney Ann Neale, my office's press secretary and digital manager. Courtney passed away suddenly on May 23.

It is still hard to fully express how much my staff and I feel Courtney's spirit, her energy, and her strength, and we miss her. She was an activist to the core and a dedicated public servant, an untiring advocate for women, for working-class people, immigrants, and communities of color.

In the year before she joined our office, Courtney was diagnosed with several medical conditions that changed her daily life. Still, she continued her fight for a world where healthcare and education are guaranteed rights. Courtney stood strongly by her principles and—this I can tell you from personal experience—challenged those around her to do the same.

As press secretary and digital manager, Courtney was a member of my office's communication team. Now, communications on the Hill can feel a bit like a one-way street, getting the message out fast before turning to the next thing. But Courtney took the meaning of communications seriously. Even under the greatest time crunch, she seemed to approach each tweet, each press statement, as a two-way dialogue.

She not only got out our message; most mornings she would bring new messages in, raising attention to feedback on social media or local angles on national news. True to her title as a communicator, Courtney didn't just tell, she also learned and responded, ensuring that constituents were heard.

And while she was known as our office's authority on all things social media, she gracefully filled many other

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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roles in her personal life. She was an adventurous traveler; an avid reader; a doting dog mom; and beloved daughter, sister, and friend.

Despite the hectic Hill schedule, she still prioritized time with colleagues, friends, and family. Principled work was a passion, but a principled life was the goal.

So her memory is more than a legacy. It is a call to action, to take care of yourself, and take care of others as well, to give selflessly, and to savor what you have. Courtney dared to dream. She challenged us to act.

Alongside the many joyful memories she leaves with us, it is those actions that we remember. On and off Capitol Hill, Courtney helped advance the progressive cause and, through it all, remained a kind and grounded person.

As my staff and I mourn her passing, we also resolve ourselves to honor her legacy by continuing to fight for the better, fairer world that she so passionately believed in.

My prayers are with Courtney's parents, Jill and Kevin; her sister, Marissa; and the incredible network of friends she made along the way in Milwaukee, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. Rest in peace, Courtney.

OUR NATION'S CURRENT ECONOMIC TRAJECTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great concern for our Nation's current economic trajectory.

Inflation is spiraling out of control, unemployment numbers continue to disappoint, and millions of small businesses are unable to fill job openings. This pattern is increasingly alarming; and for anyone who is paying attention, it is not a surprise.

The Biden administration's plan to throw money at problems is failing the American people. This so-called rescue plan is stunting our economic recovery and impeding our Nation's comeback from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As President Biden makes even more plans to squander our taxpayer dollars, prices are skyrocketing. American families are experiencing this firsthand. As they see every day, the staggering 5 percent increase in inflation is affecting nearly everything, including essentials. Together, food and energy prices have increased nearly 4 percent. And with the current cost of materials, not even the kitchen sink is safe.

At home in Pennsylvania, no one is shocked that gas is more than 50 percent more expensive today than a year ago. Our Commonwealth already has one of the highest gas taxes in the Nation, burdening workers and families alike. We cannot afford to keep paying more at the pump.

For hardworking families in Pennsylvania and around the country, the cost

of inflation is real. It is real at the grocery store. It is real at the gas pump. It is real at the hardware store and at the local diner. It is real for every Pennsylvanian every day of the week.

As a nation, we cannot ignore the sound and source of this alarming trend. This is rooted in President Biden's and the Democrats' broken economic agenda. From higher taxes and fewer jobs, to more regulations and burdens on American industries, their plan is not working.

Day after day, we see more evidence of this. Just last week, the developers of the Keystone pipeline stopped this project after the Biden administration effectively eliminated its opportunity to succeed. Not only will this decision hinder America's energy independence and security, it is also killing family-sustaining jobs for American workers.

The Biden administration already killed the pipeline. What will be next?

As inflation rises, the unemployment rate remains disappointingly high and our work force is suffering. This should be a major warning to all of us that we must stop this trend now. We cannot afford to stay entrenched in President Biden's 1970s-era economic crisis.

We must advance pro-work, pro-growth solutions that will jump-start America's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and it starts with getting Americans back to work, supporting our small businesses, and strengthening the workforce. It also requires ending the current administration's infatuation with Big Government intervention.

The American people don't want more of the same. We simply cannot afford more of it. This is a time to invest in American workers, to promote the dignity of hard work, and restore our Nation to the path of recovery.

NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate a truly essential industry at home in Pennsylvania and around our country.

Dairy farmers go to work every day of the year to produce safe and healthy food for all American people. Despite mounting regulations and obstacles, these hardworking men and women continue to persevere.

Dairy products, including nutrient-rich whole milk, are good for our kids and good for our families, and they are essential for our region's economy.

I have the distinct privilege of representing nearly 20 percent of Pennsylvania's dairy farms, which are home to more than a quarter of our Commonwealth's dairy cows.

This robust industry is a key part of our local community and our economy. It is truly my privilege to stand up for dairy farmers and to serve as their voice here in Congress as we seek to eliminate barriers to the dairy industry's success.

As we mark National Dairy Month, I thank dairy farmers in Pennsylvania and across the country for their stead-

fast dedication to our communities and to American families.

HIGHLIGHTING THE STAFF OF MANCHESTER VA MEDICAL CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the incredible efforts of the staff at the Manchester, New Hampshire, VA Medical Center, who worked long hours to resolve a massive backlog of unpaid medical claims for community care.

In a district where veterans travel long distances to get to a VA facility, community care has been a game-changer for vets to receive the services they need closer to home. But in the early years of the Choice Act, and now the Mission Act, provider payment delays and bureaucratic errors threatened the stability of community care networks and, ultimately, the access to critical lifesaving care for veterans.

One of the first providers who contacted our office was an acupuncturist who provides care to veterans experiencing PTS and debilitating pain. The acupuncturist was passionate about caring for those who served, but the chronic billing delays were creating severe uncertainty and financial hardship for her office.

She introduced me to a group of veterans that she cares for in her office to learn a little bit more about their experience. They all had a remarkable story about how their quality of life had improved since accessing these services through VA community care. But they understood that payment delays could disrupt that.

Countless other providers, including large hospital systems and small care organizations, were also caught up in this claims backlog. The VA was making it difficult, if not impossible, for many of these providers to continue serving veterans.

The issue of unpaid claims was compounded in the Northeast region by VA's multiple transitions between third-party administrators over the last few years. It created confusion and frustration in both the provider and the veteran communities.

I knew we couldn't let our veterans down, and that is why I am so thankful for the efforts of the community care team at the Manchester VA for working with our office, with providers, as well as the third-party billers to thoroughly address this issue.

Our office worked closely with the leadership at the Manchester VA Medical Center and the New Hampshire Hospital Association and its members. A plan was developed to painstakingly delve into the minutiae of the claims backlog, line by line, so that providers could be paid for legacy claims and receive timely payments for future services.

The Manchester VA Medical Center's Office of Community Care steadily plowed through the backlog, giving specialized attention to each provider. After more than 15 months of their hard work, I am proud these diligent efforts have resulted in tens of millions of dollars of paid claims to New Hampshire's VA Community Care providers. They were so successful in this work that their internal process is now being shared nationally across the VA system as a model.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally thank the team members at the VA in Manchester who put in so many hours to address this backlog, including:

Michelle Mercer, who spent considerable time dealing with each member's hospital billing department;

Patricia Patterson, who also spent considerable time dealing with each member's billing department;

Tracy Allaire, who worked closely with Tri-West on claims on behalf of hospitals on the back end;

Charlene Eaton, who supervised and provided oversight to the VA Office of Community Care staff;

Dr. Brain Phemester, who worked and provided leadership and served as a conduit between VA Central Office and the New Hampshire Hospital Association and its members;

And Daniel Wilson, who initially spearheaded the billing resolution effort within the VA Central Office, and worked with our district office and the Hospital Association.

These Manchester VA Medical Center employees went above and beyond the call of duty for our veterans and the providers, as well as the future of community care. I couldn't be more proud to be able to recognize them for their efforts here today.

□ 1015

AMERICA DESERVES BETTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in fierce opposition to President Biden's proposed budget.

When he released his budget just a few weeks ago, nearly 3 months later than any President in a transition year, by the way, President Biden reminded Americans of advice his father gave him years ago. "Don't tell me what you value," Biden's father told him. "Show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value."

If that is true, then Biden's \$6 trillion budget reveals to us exactly what President Biden values: destroying America's oil and gas industry, prioritizing the rights of illegal immigrants over law-abiding Americans, funneling foreign aid away from our longtime ally Israel, turning a blind eye to protecting the unborn.

Under the Biden budget, President Biden suggests we spend our hard-

earned dollars fixing problems he created.

He wants us spending \$174 billion on electric cars, carports, car charging stations, and other subsidies to the electric vehicle market in a full-on attempt to replace the oil and gas industry; \$40 billion to retain employees who lost their jobs after he blocked the Keystone pipeline and destroyed thousands of energy jobs; and a total of \$36 billion to combat climate change, bringing back the waters of the U.S. rule and mandating 30 percent of our privately owned land be locked in conservation practices. President Biden's budget is the progressive's Green New Deal in disguise, and America doesn't want anything to do with it.

President Biden wants \$2 billion to provide care for unaccompanied migrant children at our southern border after he put millions of innocent children in harm's way and encouraged immigrants to cross illegally. He wants no extension of funding to complete the already nearly finished wall system or money to enforce our immigration laws at the border and instead instated an executive order stopping construction on the very wall that keeps our country safe.

President Biden wants \$63.5 billion for international affairs spending, a 12 percent increase from 2022 that lacks specific defense funding for Israel, America's only democratic ally in the Middle East. His omission is clear and comes at a time when the terrorist organization Hamas launched hundreds of rockets at Israel in the last month alone and when Democrats are on the record for their anti-Semitic language and slurs.

And President Biden refuses to protect our dollars from being spent on abortions or abortion services. Instead, for the first time in four decades, no such protection exists, a protection that 77 percent of Americans support and a protection even Biden supported for years before his Presidential campaign.

On top of all this, President Biden claims his budget is partly in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but like the American Rescue Plan, it, too, fails to investigate the origins of COVID-19. Even more, the Biden administration won't commit that none of the budget requests would include funding for the research at the Wuhan lab.

The economic disaster to follow from his reckless spending will cripple American families' purchasing power and leave future generations with the crushing burden of the national debt. It is time we hold President Biden accountable for a budget that would cause our Federal debt to reach 117 percent of gross domestic product by 2031, the highest level since World War II, and continue the record rates of inflation we are already seeing under President Biden.

I ran for Congress with the intention of creating a better world for my chil-

dren, our children, one where they don't have to pay President Biden's debts and suffer the consequences of irresponsible and egregious spending. America deserves better.

CELEBRATING CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is spring, the beginning of summer, but it is also Caribbean-American Heritage Month this June. It brings me great pride to join Virgin Islanders and other Caribbean people across the country in celebrating Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

As a Virgin Islander and an American of Caribbean descent, I am proud to celebrate the life, legacy, and achievement of Caribbean people in this country. Virgin Islanders and other Americans of Caribbean lineage have made enormous contributions to the United States through academia, athletics, the arts, and more.

Caribbeans have been involved in this country since its inception, such as des gens de couleurs libres, who included 800 French-Caribbean soldiers, 500 of whom were Haitian free men of color who fought at the battle of Savannah for the Colonies in the American Revolution.

Caribbean-American Heritage Month was officially celebrated and recognized on June 5, 2006, by Presidential proclamation signed by President George W. Bush. It had been unanimously adopted in the House in 2005 through the unwavering power of our colleague BARBARA LEE, who sponsored the legislation. Since 2006, the White House has released an annual proclamation recognizing June as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

Caribbean Americans have added to the history, culture, and communities in America in countless ways. The unique relationship between the United States and the Caribbean has enriched both regions, and this month is a wonderful time to celebrate our shared past and our future.

We should also look for opportunities for us as Americans to pursue new partnerships on a number of issues with the Caribbean. From trade, immigration, disaster preparedness, poverty eradication, and ending HIV/AIDS, the United States and the Caribbean share a number of mutual policy interests.

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic adds a new challenge to both our country and our Caribbean neighbors. I will keep fighting to ensure that the United States works to be an active and constructive partner in safeguarding the health and welfare of our third border.

The people of the Caribbean are as much a part of the fabric of this country as anyone else. We are not monolithic, nor do we represent one culture, one ideology, or even one ethnicity.

Alexander Hamilton, the drafter of the United States Constitution and our first Secretary of the Treasury, was born on the island of Nevis and spent his childhood and formative years on my home, St. Croix, in the Danish West Indies, what is now the Virgin Islands.

Caribbean-American heritage not only flows through the fabric of this country; it also flows through the Halls of Congress every day. Shirley Chisholm, a personal hero of mine, was the first African-American Congresswoman and the first Black woman to run for President, nominated by a major party. Her heritage hails from Barbados and Guyana. Without her, Caribbean women, even Black women, myself, and many other of my colleagues would not be here today: YVETTE CLARKE, JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, FREDERICA WILSON, former Members Mia Love and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and many more. Even our current Vice President, KAMALA HARRIS, is of Jamaican descent.

The Caribbean people have done so much more than just fight and make laws for this country. That doesn't even scratch the surface. The building we are standing in right now was designed by Dr. William Thornton, who was born on the island of Jost Van Dyke in the British Virgin Islands. The symbol of our democracy was designed by a Caribbean American.

Our works in the arts are felt every day: news commentators Joy Reid, Yamiche Alcindor, Karine Jean-Pierre; from Sidney Poitier, the first Black man to win an Academy Award, to Kerry Washington. Who can forget Cicely Tyson and Harry Belafonte; great minds like Edward Wilmot Blyden, the father of Pan-Africanism; Denmark Vesey; Malcolm X; and Stokely Carmichael.

In music, we have managed to not only be great but iconic as well: Maxwell, who is considered to be the godfather of neo-soul and the R&B movement; Biggie Smalls, a fellow Brooklynite born to Jamaican parents, changed hip-hop forever; and Nicki Minaj, who is changing it even more in the modern era.

Some of the greatest athletes of our time are Caribbean, from Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, whose family is from Trinidad, to Tim Duncan, from my home on St. Croix, who was just elected to the hall of fame, and even Ramon Harewood in the NFL.

During this unique time in our country's history, I encourage everyone to learn more about the contributions of Caribbean Americans.

DEMOCRATIC DOUBLE STANDARDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I am that woman, and I am back to talk about the Democratic double standards once again.

Democrats love to jump on the Republican outrage train. But when we see the blatant anti-Semitism from one of their own, all you see are timid, fake, pandering, and watered-down responses.

For those of you who struggle to keep up with the latest anti-Semitic rhetoric from a Democrat, I am referring to the Congresswoman from this Chamber comparing the United States and Israel to real terrorist organizations.

The Speaker and her leadership team issued a weak and embarrassing press release thanking her for her clarification and walking back her remarks. But, of course, Democrats are not serious in disciplining anti-Semitism, or even anti-American remarks, within their ranks.

This photo of the Speaker smiling next to the Congresswoman from Minnesota was on the cover of the March 2019 edition of Rolling Stone. This came after the Congresswoman from Minnesota had tweeted, and then defended, that "Israel has hypnotized the world" and implied that the Jewish people were buying political support by tweeting: "It's all about the Benjamins baby."

The cover of the magazine says: "Women Shaping the Future: NANCY PELOSI and the New Voices of the House."

Is this really the voice of the Democratic Party, Madam Speaker?

Can you imagine, for one moment, the Democratic outrage if this were the Republican leader and the Congresswoman from Georgia? There would be demands for resignations, and Republican office phones would be ringing off the hook from leftwing, liberal activists.

I ask the Speaker, are you truly proud of this photo?

I can't wait to hear her answer. I just hope she won't be as demeaning as the last time she spoke about "that woman."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

REPUBLICANS SUPPORT POLICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, as a 30-year law enforcement veteran, the rhetoric and hatred I have seen toward law enforcement the past 12 months are, quite honestly, infuriating.

Liberal cities across our country have defunded hundreds of millions from their police. Seattle, Portland, Minneapolis, Austin, they all cut police budgets, and every single one of them is now experiencing skyrocketing crime.

No surprise. Less police equal more crime, common sense that doesn't seem all too common in today's Democratic Party.

Whatever happened to the Democratic Party of Bill Clinton? In 1994, Clinton added 100,000 law enforcement officers to the streets with the COPS grants. Today's Democratic Party is unrecognizable to that party.

The socialist squad is the de facto leaders of the Democrats, and they are the driving force behind the defund the police movement. They would rather see 100,000 less police than 100,000 more.

The Republican Party has never wavered in our steadfast support for our Nation's law enforcement. I hope to see the Democrats will one day embrace common sense and join us.

□ 1030

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DON L. TAYLOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. FITZGERALD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and celebrate the life of Don L. Taylor, a lifelong resident of Wisconsin and a friend, who peacefully passed away at age 88 on April 16, 2021, surrounded by his family.

Don was active in many civic and service organizations and wore many hats throughout his lifetime. He served honorably as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and was a longtime member and past president of the Waukesha Rotary Club. He spent his leisure time writing historical fiction set in Waukesha. He also had many other interests and, as many Wisconsinites do, Don enjoyed many trips to his family cabin up north in Wisconsin.

Don was a staple in the Waukesha community due to his involvement in the Waukesha State Bank. Don succeeded his father, Carl, as president and CEO of the Waukesha State Bank, a role he held for 25 years, from 1969 to 1994. Don is credited with modernizing the operations of the bank and computerizing operations in 1968, one of the first banks to do so. In 2004 Don's son, Ty Taylor, became the third generation of the family to serve as president of the bank.

Don will also be remembered for his deep involvement in politics. He served as chairman of the Waukesha County Republican Party for 30 years, from 1979 to 1989, and again from 1993 to 2013. Don was one of the early pioneers in Waukesha to help grow the conservative movement, and his efforts cannot be understated for their lasting impact today. Don was recognized for his organizing capabilities by being selected to chair and co-chair President Ronald Reagan's 1968, 1980, and 1984 Wisconsin campaigns.

Above all else, Don Taylor was first and foremost a man of faith. He was a devoted Christian who lived his values through his everyday work and his family life.

Don is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Carol. He is also survived by

children Wendy, Scott, Jenifer, and Ty; 10 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and his sister, Velma Geraldson.

On behalf of Wisconsin's Fifth Congressional District, it is my privilege to celebrate the life and legacy of Don L. Taylor for his unparalleled contributions and impact on our community. I offer my heartfelt condolences to Don's family and those who were lucky to call him a friend.

THIS NATION WON'T GIVE UP ITS LIBERTIES EASILY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. CAWTHORN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, for over 200 years, American citizens have chosen dangerous freedom over peaceful subjugation. For the past few decades, the American patriot has watched in horror as the Federal Government has opened the shackles of safety and firmly clamped them around the Second Amendment.

As the Second Amendment restrictions have risen, so has violent crime. Washington wonders in one moment why violent crime is rising, and then takes away the right of Americans to defend themselves in the next.

Mr. Speaker, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives exists for the sole purpose of regulating and keeping me from three of the things I hold most dear as an American.

This administration's proposed head of the ATF thinks that the Second Amendment was created for hunting and sporting. David Chipman could not be more wrong. The purpose of the Second Amendment was and is to hold back a tyrannical government. Chipman's tyrannical reading of the Constitution would turn millions of Americans into criminals overnight.

I am here to tell you today that these Americans who seek to defend their right to bear arms are not the criminals our Nation ought to be concerned by.

Mr. Speaker, the most dangerous threat to our safety and security does not arise from Americans wanting to protect themselves. No, it comes from men and women like those in this Chamber who would choose the quiet of servitude over the tumult of liberty.

The Second Amendment was designed to protect the First, and this Nation will not give up its liberties so easily.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 34 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. UNDERWOOD) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, even as we acknowledge the tragedy of over 600,000 deaths this pandemic has wrought on our country and the devastation it has caused around the world, help us to find the gift we are now being given: the opportunity to emerge, carefully, from the fear and anxiety COVID has imposed on our daily living and rediscover the importance of our relationships one with another.

What a joy it is to see someone else's whole face, to look not just in their eyes but to be graced by their whole countenance.

As we dare to unmask, may we dare also to reveal our hearts to one another and rediscover the gift of being in fellowship.

Even as we risk exposure to the enduring dangers of our environment, may we also risk exposing ourselves to the challenge of frank and open, albeit respectful, interchange of ideas and diversity of thought.

In sharing our heartfelt thoughts and opinions, may we also find ways to share care and concern with those whose perspectives are at times drastically different from our own.

May we, our faces, our whole selves, unhidden and unrestrained, reflect Your generosity, mercy, and love.

Then reveal Yourself to us, in the face of those with whom we serve this day.

In Your merciful name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. STEEL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THUNDERBIRDS

(Mr. HORSFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the glorious Thunderbirds of Nellis Air Force Base, who are celebrating 65 years in Las Vegas this month.

Since their establishment, the Thunderbirds, America's Ambassadors in Blue, have performed in front of millions worldwide, defying gravity with stunning aerobatics that showcase our military power and might.

Their mission is to recruit, retain, and inspire. With each dazzling performance, they rouse America's future heroes to serve our Nation.

Congratulations on 65 years, Thunderbirds. You are the pride of Nevada's Fourth District and the pride of our Nation.

REMEMBERING COACH JOHN MCDONNELL

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a legend in Arkansas sports, the late Razorback track and field coach John McDonnell.

Coach McDonnell was laid to rest last week, leaving a truly remarkable legacy: the most decorated coach in NCAA history, having won 40 national championships in indoor and outdoor track and cross country. He was the national coach of the year 30 times and is responsible for six NCAA triple crowns at Arkansas.

He coached and mentored some of the world's best athletes: Southwest Conference champions, Southeast Conference champions, NCAA champions, and Olympic champions. He himself was an outstanding runner, and he knew how to help his student-athletes become successful.

Coach McDonnell was a native of Ireland. He came to the U.S., graduated from Southwest Louisiana, and earned his citizenship in 1969.

He devoted his life to inspiring young people to excel. On the many occasions that I had a chance to visit with Coach McDonnell, I always came away thankful that we in America were blessed to have him.

When the starting gun fires and they are calling the Hogs on the track that bears his name, we will all be reminded of his legacy of good works and great coaching and his unrelenting Razorback spirit.

My deepest condolences to his wife of more than 50 years, Ellen, children Sean and Heather, and the rest of the McDonnell family.

HELP NEEDED FOR VETERANS WITH PTSD

(Mr. TRONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of our Nation's veterans struggling with PTSD and their family members anxious for help.

This week, I spoke with the mother of a young man who joined the Marines out of patriotic duty following 9/11. He served four tours.

His mother told me that when he came home, he was a changed man struggling with PTSD.

She took him to the VA when he said he was contemplating suicide. She was told all the beds were full; they couldn't help.

He was later denied extended treatment at an inpatient facility after he began self-medicating. A year-and-a-half ago, he died of an overdose.

We have to do better. The VA needs more and better addiction and mental health resources. This young man's mother said to me, after losing her son, she is in the fight now. I am, too, and I hope you will join me.

ANNIVERSARY OF CONGRESSIONAL BASEBALL SHOOTING

(Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, 4 years ago yesterday, Republicans were tragically attacked by a liberal gunman with an agenda to shoot and kill Republican Members of Congress.

That day, United States Capitol Police Officers Griner and Bailey, along with Alexandria police, acted swiftly to neutralize the gunman and prevent what could have been an extraordinarily deadly event that changed the course of our country.

I stand here today because of their heroism, and I, along with my Republican colleagues present that morning, are forever grateful.

We must always support our men and women in blue and oppose any efforts to defund the police and make communities less safe.

Law enforcement officers go to work in their communities every day to make a difference, protect their neighbors, and prevent crime, a solemn duty we should commend and not tear down.

We will forever owe a debt of gratitude to the officers present 4 years ago and are grateful for every brave and honorable law enforcement officer who is willing to sacrifice themselves to keep us safe.

In God we trust.

NEED FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLEAN ENERGY

(Mrs. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today as Nevadans are facing the reality of our climate crisis head-on.

Lake Mead has reached record low levels not seen since the construction

of the Hoover Dam, and a massive heat wave has now brought record-breaking temperatures and safety warnings.

We cannot deny the climate trajectory our country faces, and at the same time, our State and the country are climbing out of an economic crisis.

There is no question that the opportunity to take action on both the economic and the climate crises is now.

That is why I am proud to have joined my colleagues in the Problem Solvers Caucus to bring Democrats and Republicans together on an infrastructure proposal.

We need to work together now more than ever. Our crumbling roads, bridges, and the tools that grind the gears of our day-to-day American life cannot support our economy and our planet without bold new investment.

Those bold investments will create good-paying jobs in communities across the country.

The time to deliver solutions is now.

CONGRATULATING GRACE CHRISTIAN WARRIORS BASEBALL TEAM

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the Grace Christian School Warriors baseball team for their come-from-behind victory in this year's Virginia Association of Christian Athletics State championship.

Down to the last 12 outs, the Warriors trailed 4-0. But thanks to some timely hits, their comeback started as they were able to put one run on the board in the fourth.

In the bottom of the fifth, things really started turning in Grace Christian's favor. A few hits, some heads-up base running, and costly errors made by their opponents gave the Warriors a 5-4 lead.

However, the lead didn't last long, as the Bulldogs from Westover Christian Academy scored two in the top of the sixth. But the Warriors battled back, tying the game in the bottom half of the inning.

Grace Christian's MVP pitcher, Isaiah Riddle, mastered Westover hitters in the top of the seventh, meaning it all came down to the Warriors' bats.

First baseman Justin Hain led off with a base hit, then stole second, and moved to third on a wild pitch. With another wild pitch, Hain sprinted home and secured Grace Christian the title.

Truly, it ain't over till it's over.

Congratulations to the players, coaches, parents, and staff on an incredible season and a well-deserved win.

REMEMBERING DAVID SAMRICK

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the remarkable life of David Samrick of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

David's faith and love for the Jewish community were evident in his support of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. He served on the AIPAC national board since 2015, working closely with Members of the United States Congress to strengthen and promote a strong and unbreakable U.S.-Israel relationship.

Through his work with AIPAC, he led citizen activists in building relationships with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, a key to the success of the pro-Israel movement. We worked together to address a multitude of issues facing our community, from the scourge of anti-Semitism to ensuring we maintain our strong U.S.-Israel relationship.

I am proud to have considered him my very dear friend. I will miss his guidance and wisdom but mostly his friendship.

My heartfelt sympathy goes out to his wife, Susan, and his entire family. David was one of a kind, a selfless, compassionate, and tireless advocate. May his memory be for a blessing.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD FURLONG

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Richard J. Furlong, a wonderful member of our community who passed away late last year.

Mr. Furlong was born in 1926 in Utica, New York, my hometown. He grew up on the Seminole Farm in Holland Patent.

He was called to serve his country at the age of 19 when he enlisted in the United States Army during the World War II era. After he left service, he returned home to Holland Patent. He would later go on to marry Neva Millias, who was his beloved wife of 37 years.

Mr. Furlong was a very proud son of Irish immigrants. He enjoyed sharing his heritage with those around him and made several visits to Ireland over the course of his life.

Friends and family remember him as a jovial and hardworking man. Mr. Furlong was the oldest living member of The American Legion Leon R. Roberts Post 161 and a past member and president of the Holland Patent Hose Company.

He was beloved by his siblings, 12 nieces and nephews, and many great-nieces and -nephews. I extend my condolences to his family and also his great friends.

Richard was larger than life, with a vibrant and fun personality. While we all miss him dearly, we will always remember his great legacy with a big smile.

HONORING PENNSYLVANIA'S FIFTH DISTRICT CLASS OF 2021

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Pennsylvania's Fifth District class of 2021 and wish them well in their next adventures.

As we watched the world change before our eyes over the past year-and-a-half, we also saw the strength and determination of young people in our district, throughout the U.S., and across the globe.

We saw students pick up jobs to help support their families, take to the streets to support causes they believed in deeply, and contribute their time and savings to help others in need.

Whether they realized it or not, their energy and activism have shifted the national conversation around issues like gun violence, racial justice, and the climate crisis.

We are at an inflection point of history, science, and technology, and I have never been more inspired or hopeful than I am for this generation.

I also want to acknowledge our debt of gratitude to all the teachers and school staff who showed such dedication and resilience as they guided our students through the challenges of a pandemic with patience, courage, and innovation.

Graduates, the world is waiting for our next wave of leaders, and we know that you are ready for the challenge. Congratulations.

□ 1215

ARVN DAY HONORS THE SERVICE OF VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS

(Mrs. STEEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Veterans of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Day. June 19th is ARVN Day, which honors the service and sacrifice of the South Vietnamese soldiers who fought to defend a free Vietnam.

Thousands of South Vietnamese soldiers fought alongside our U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam war in defense of freedom and democracy. They deserve our appreciation and respect for their service.

After the fall of Saigon, many who fought with the South Vietnamese forces fled Vietnam to escape tyranny. Many found a home here in the United States. Today, there are over 100,000 veterans from the Republic of Vietnam living in California.

On ARVN Day, we honor the sacrifice of those who served and remember those who paid the ultimate price in the pursuit of freedom.

STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the D.C. statehood bill will receive a hearing in the Senate, and I expect the date to be announced today. I appreciate that our D.C. statehood bill has already passed the House, and I thank the House.

Our hearings and House passage have alerted Americans that the residents of their own Nation's Capital do not have the same rights as other Americans. As a result, a detailed poll now shows that 54 percent of the American people support D.C. statehood for the District of Columbia.

As Americans who pay the highest Federal taxes per capita in the United States, D.C. residents say it is about time—indeed, well past time—for Congress to grant statehood to the residents of the District of Columbia.

THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT MUST BE ADDRESSED

(Mr. VALADAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the disastrous consequences of the House majority's failure to address the California drought.

As you can see in this photo, California's water levels are dramatically low. This water is supposed to be up all the way at the tree line. The reservoirs are low at this point because of disastrous policies that force us to waste water during the wetter years.

Countless communities are relying on this water. If this is what we are seeing in the beginning of the system in the north, how are we supposed to supply the entire State of California with enough clean water to survive?

Across the State, communities rely on water supplied by the federally managed Central Valley Project. Last month the Bureau of Reclamation announced that Central Valley farmers would receive zero percent of their contracts, effectively signing a death sentence for their fields.

Acres of half-grown crops meant to feed families across the Nation are being abandoned to dry up and die. Meanwhile, the majority refuses to even consider my legislation, the RENEW WIIN Act, which would help prevent this from happening again in the future.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to acknowledge the suffering of California families and get to work to help them.

WE MUST PROTECT THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to be a voice for the most innocent and vulnerable among us. This

Sunday many families, including mine, will celebrate Father's Day.

My faith and my family are the most important parts of my life, and I couldn't be more grateful for my wife, Chelsea; and our two sons, Guy and Sam. Being the father of Guy and Sam has only intensified my belief that we must protect the sanctity of life. Our society cannot leave our most vulnerable unprotected.

Safeguarding the right to life has always been one of my top priorities, and I will continue working to protect life at every stage of development.

As a Christian and a father, I will always fight for the right to life and for traditional family values. We must protect those who cannot protect themselves.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR. ANNE SCHUCHAT

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor CDC's Principal Deputy Director Anne Schuchat for her outstanding career in medicine and public health.

Dr. Schuchat joined the CDC in 1988 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer. Since joining the agency, she has served as chief of the Respiratory Diseases Branch, director of the National Center For Immunization and Respiratory Diseases and as acting CDC director twice.

Her contributions have been recognized by an election to the National Academy of Medicine, and she has received the United States Public Health Service's Distinguished Service Medal and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials Lifetime Achievement Award, among many other awards and recognitions.

Dr. Schuchat has dedicated her life to improving public health around the world and has inspired many young women to go into medicine and public health.

As a lifelong healthcare professional, I congratulate Dr. Schuchat on her retirement and commend her for her hard work over the past 33 years.

CLARISSA ROZENBOOM CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a very special day for a woman in my district, but I also want to say how joyful it is to see people's faces and smiles now that we are following the science and not fining the science.

I am rising today to celebrate a very special day for a woman in my district. Last week on June 8, Clarissa Rozenboom of Oskaloosa, Iowa, celebrated her 100th birthday. Clarissa was

born and raised on a farm in Mahaska County, Iowa, and is the oldest of five siblings.

In the 1930s many children who were raised on farms elected not to attend high school, but Clarissa was inspired by her aunt to not only attend high school but to continue her education through courses at William Penn University, which is still in Oskaloosa today.

In the early 1940s, her love for children and teaching led her to pursue a career in education at Bryan County school, a small school south of New Sharon.

On August 14, 1945, Clarissa married her husband, Gerald, and together they had six children: Allan, Calvin, Norman, Kathleen, David, and Ken, who is a State senator and my colleague in the State senate in Iowa.

Clarissa, I wish you all the joy in the world as you celebrate this with your loved ones.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 610) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a grant program to support the restoration of San Francisco Bay, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 610

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "San Francisco Bay Restoration Act".

SEC. 2. SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM.

Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 124. SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP.—The term 'Estuary Partnership' means the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, designated as the management conference for the San Francisco Bay under section 320.

"(2) SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN.—The term 'San Francisco Bay Plan' means—

"(A) until the date of the completion of the plan developed by the Director under subsection (d), the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved under section 320 for the San Francisco Bay estuary; and

"(B) on and after the date of the completion of the plan developed by the Director

under subsection (d), the plan developed by the Director under subsection (d).

"(b) PROGRAM OFFICE.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish in the Environmental Protection Agency a San Francisco Bay Program Office. The Office shall be located at the headquarters of Region 9 of the Environmental Protection Agency.

"(2) APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR.—The Administrator shall appoint a Director of the Office, who shall have management experience and technical expertise relating to the San Francisco Bay and be highly qualified to direct the development and implementation of projects, activities, and studies necessary to implement the San Francisco Bay Plan.

"(3) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY; STAFFING.—The Administrator shall delegate to the Director such authority and provide such staff as may be necessary to carry out this section.

"(c) ANNUAL PRIORITY LIST.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—After providing public notice, the Director shall annually compile a priority list, consistent with the San Francisco Bay Plan, identifying and prioritizing the projects, activities, and studies to be carried out with amounts made available under subsection (e).

"(2) INCLUSIONS.—The annual priority list compiled under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

"(A) Projects, activities, and studies, including restoration projects and habitat improvement for fish, waterfowl, and wildlife, that advance the goals and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Plan, for—

"(i) water quality improvement, including the reduction of marine litter;

"(ii) wetland, riverine, and estuary restoration and protection;

"(iii) nearshore and endangered species recovery; and

"(iv) adaptation to climate change.

"(B) Information on the projects, activities, and studies specified under subparagraph (A), including—

"(i) the identity of each entity receiving assistance pursuant to subsection (e); and

"(ii) a description of the communities to be served.

"(C) The criteria and methods established by the Director for identification of projects, activities, and studies to be included on the annual priority list.

"(3) CONSULTATION.—In compiling the annual priority list under paragraph (1), the Director shall consult with, and consider the recommendations of—

"(A) the Estuary Partnership;

"(B) the State of California and affected local governments in the San Francisco Bay estuary watershed;

"(C) the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority; and

"(D) any other relevant stakeholder involved with the protection and restoration of the San Francisco Bay estuary that the Director determines to be appropriate.

"(d) SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Director, in conjunction with the Estuary Partnership, shall review and revise the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved under section 320 for the San Francisco Bay estuary to develop a plan to guide the projects, activities, and studies of the Office to address the restoration and protection of the San Francisco Bay.

"(2) REVISION OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN.—Not less often than once every 5 years after the date of the completion of the plan described in paragraph (1), the Director shall review, and revise as appropriate, the San Francisco Bay Plan.

"(3) OUTREACH.—In carrying out this subsection, the Director shall consult with the Estuary Partnership and Indian tribes and solicit input from other non-Federal stakeholders.

"(e) GRANT PROGRAM.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may provide funding through cooperative agreements, grants, or other means to State and local agencies, special districts, and public or nonprofit agencies, institutions, and organizations, including the Estuary Partnership, for projects, activities, and studies identified on the annual priority list compiled under subsection (c).

"(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS; NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

"(A) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—Amounts provided to any entity under this section for a fiscal year shall not exceed an amount equal to 75 percent of the total cost of any projects, activities, and studies that are to be carried out using those amounts.

"(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—Not less than 25 percent of the cost of any project, activity, or study carried out using amounts provided under this section shall be provided from non-Federal sources.

"(f) FUNDING.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

"(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year, the Director may not use more than 5 percent to pay administrative expenses incurred in carrying out this section.

"(3) PROHIBITION.—No amounts made available under this section may be used for the administration of a management conference under section 320.

"(g) ANNUAL BUDGET PLAN.—For each of the budgets for fiscal years 2023 through 2026, the President, as part of the annual budget submission of the President to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall submit information regarding each Federal department and agency involved in San Francisco Bay protection and restoration, including—

"(1) a report that displays for each Federal agency—

"(A) the amounts obligated in the preceding fiscal year for protection and restoration projects, activities, and studies relating to the San Francisco Bay; and

"(B) the proposed budget for protection and restoration projects, activities, and studies relating to the San Francisco Bay; and

"(2) a description and assessment of the Federal role in the implementation of the San Francisco Bay Plan and the specific role of each Federal department and agency involved in San Francisco Bay protection and restoration, including specific projects, activities, and studies conducted or planned to achieve the identified goals and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Plan."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 610, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I will include in the RECORD a letter from Chairman JOHN YARMUTH of the House Committee on Budget agreeing to waive consideration of H.R. 610, as amended, as well as Chair DEFAZIO's response to Mr. YARMUTH expressing appreciation for his willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in support of H.R. 610.

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT,
Los Altos, CA, June 10, 2021.

Re H.R. 610—San Francisco Bay Restoration Act—SUPPORT.

Hon. JACKIE SPEIER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SPEIER: On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen), I write to express our support for your legislation, H.R. 610, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act. Comprised of over 65,000 acres of acquired and protected open space on the San Francisco Peninsula, Midpen is one of the largest regional open space districts in California. Our braided mission is to acquire and preserve in perpetuity open space and agricultural land of regional significance, to protect and restore the natural environment, to preserve rural character and encourage viable agricultural use of land resources, and to provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

As you know, the legislation would prioritize funding for the San Francisco Bay, a vital resource to our District, the regional community, and the entire state of California. The \$250 million authorized in the bill would provide critical federal investment to restoring the Bay's wetlands and estuaries, assist in the recovery of endangered species, and help to alleviate the impacts of climate change. We greatly appreciate the legislation's establishment of this federal partnership to improve the Bay Area and protect our coastal community and economy.

For these reasons, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District greatly supports the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act (H.R. 610). Thank you for your leadership and continued work on improving the Bay Area. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss our support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

ANA M. RUIZ,
General Manager.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 610. This legislation would create a stand-alone program for the San Francisco Bay within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in essence elevating restoration efforts of a water body that has been part of the national estuary program since 1993.

This legislation responds to an August 2018 Government Accountability Office report that found a centralized program would improve the existing efforts to restore and protect the San Francisco Bay.

This legislation would authorize \$25 million annually for fiscal year 2022 through 2026, with a cap on Federal funding for eligible projects and a cap on administrative expenses. H.R. 610 is supported by the delegation representing the bay and surrounding area, including our committee colleagues JARED HUFFMAN, MARK DESAULNIER, and JOHN GARAMENDI.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 610, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, June 2, 2021.

Hon. JOHN YARMUTH:

Chair, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. YARMUTH: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 610, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act. I appreciate your decision to waive formal consideration of the bill.

I agree that the Committee on the Budget has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I further agree that by forgoing formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on the Budget is not waiving any jurisdiction over any relevant subject matter. Additionally, if requested I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on the Budget should a House-Senate conference be convened on this legislation. Finally, this exchange of letters will be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD when the bill is considered on the floor.

Thank you again, and I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Committee on the Budget on this important issue.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFAZIO,
Chair.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, May 27, 2021.

Hon. PETER A. DEFAZIO,
Chair, Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR DEFAZIO: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 610, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Act. H.R. 610 contains provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Budget. However, the committee agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill.

The Committee on the Budget takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. The committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation or similar legislation and requests your support if such a request is made.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and I ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

JOHN YARMUTH,
Chairman.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Last Congress we worked together to ensure bipartisan support for several regional water bills, including this one.

H.R. 610 codifies the Environmental Protection Agency's existing restoration work in the San Francisco Bay estuary and establishes a San Francisco Bay program office.

I urge support of this legislation and reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER).

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, this bill is something I have been working on for 10 years and have introduced in every Congress since I came to Congress. It provides \$25 million a year for 5 years.

Over the last 200 years, 90 percent of the bay wetlands have disappeared. They are gone. What is even worse is that in less than 9 years, sea level rise in that region will effectively drown out all of the marshes. The damage will be irreversible.

Over the last 8 years the EPA has invested only \$45 million in San Francisco Bay. However, even though it is the largest estuary on the West Coast, Puget Sound received more than \$260 million and the Chesapeake Bay received \$490 million. That is an unbelievable difference in funding opportunities.

We can't afford to keep pushing this off. The San Francisco Bay supports 4 million jobs and provides 20 million Californians with clean drinking water.

It is the lifeblood of the region and a worthy investment of taxpayer dollars. Every dollar spent on restoration efforts generates \$2.10 in economic activity. More funding for the bay is a win-win. It would, in fact, be the right thing to do, the only fair thing to do considering how much more has been spent on other estuaries.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1230

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and recognition on this important issue.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation.

I am so proud of Representative JACKIE SPEIER, with whom I have the privilege of corepresenting San Francisco. JACKIE SPEIER has been our champion on San Francisco Bay, and this San Francisco Bay Restoration Act is a vital step to restoring our cherished bay.

It is an honor to be joined in this legislation with other bay area colleagues, JARED HUFFMAN, JOHN GARAMENDI, MIKE THOMPSON, JERRY MCNERNEY, MARK DESAULNIER, BARBARA LEE, RO KHANNA, ANNA ESHOO, and ZOE LOFGREN. I also thank Senators DIANNE

FEINSTEIN and ALEX PADILLA, who have introduced a Senate companion bill.

Madam Speaker, Members may not know, but the San Francisco Bay is an icon of California and a national treasure: inspiring us with its beauty and its might, enriching our lives with world-class recreation, tourism, and jobs.

The bay area delta, of which it is a part, is also the economic lifeblood of our coast, contributing over \$370 billion to our economy each year and supporting more than four million jobs.

As part of the bay-delta estuary, it is a vital part of public health, providing drinking water for millions of Californians, a key force in combating the climate crisis.

But, for centuries, this magnificent estuary has been overexploited and underprotected. Today, 90 percent of the bay area's wetlands have been destroyed, undermining the strength of our coastal economies and communities.

The San Francisco Bay Restoration Act—sponsored and championed by Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER over many years—would make a long overdue \$125 million investment in restoration efforts. It improves coordination from San Francisco to Washington, as it revives our wetlands to protect our coastal communities, improves our water quality, strengthens our climate resilience, including by combating sea level rise.

In 2018, the GAO concluded that a centralized initiative providing improved coordination and communication across efforts, along with dedicated Federal funding, would be the best chance for long-term restoration and protection of this vital geographic area on the West Coast. And this bill introduced by Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER provides exactly that.

Californians have fought to increase appropriations for the bay area for years, and we are grateful for the support of then-chair Nita Lowey of the Appropriations Committee and the chair of the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, BETTY MCCOLLUM. We secured an increase of \$3 million in funding for the bay.

Last year, with the support of Transportation and Infrastructure chair PETER DEFAZIO and, hence, the committee of Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, and Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee chair GRACE NAPOLITANO, the House passed this Bay Restoration Act by a voice vote, and then again as part of our infrastructure bill, H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act. Now we want to make it the law of the land.

Our communities and our lives are heavily enriched by the bay-delta estuary. This investment is an economic, health, environmental, and moral imperative.

I urge Members to support it with strong bipartisan support, and I hope that it will be bipartisan on the part of our colleagues on the West Coast, who

know the value of the quality of life that the bay estuary project brings to us. I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge support of this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 610, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1703) to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children's Museum to provide the National Children's Museum rental space without charge in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1703

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Children's Museum Act".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-81) designated the Capital Children's Museum, the predecessor to the National Children's Museum, as the "National Children's Museum";

(2) the National Children's Museum operates under section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is organized under the laws of the District of Columbia;

(3) the mission of the National Children's Museum is to inspire children to care about and change the world; and

(4) the National Children's Museum is located in the federally owned Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

(b) NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM.—Chapter 67 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 6735. National Children's Museum

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of General Services shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children's Museum for the oper-

ation of the National Children's Museum in the approximately 32,369 square feet of space commonly known as suite C-001 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Space') of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center for the duration of the retail space license agreement between Trade Center Management Associates, LLC, or a successor entity, and the Museum, dated December 4, 2017, including any exercised renewal options.

"(b) CONTENTS.—The cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall include provisions that—

"(1) require, for the period in which the General Services Administration owns or controls the Space, the General Services Administration to provide rent for the Space;

"(2) terminate such agreement if—

"(A) the Museum does not continue to qualify as a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

"(B) the Museum no longer uses the Space as a children's museum; and

"(3) prohibits the Museum from transferring the interest in such agreement.

"(c) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—To carry out this section, the Administrator shall use funds derived from—

"(1) the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation fund; or

"(2) the International Trade Center fund.

"(d) REPORT.—The cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall require the National Children's Museum to submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate an annual report on the operations and finances of the Museum."

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 67 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"6735. National Children's Museum."

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1703, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1703, the National Children's Museum Act, which I have sponsored. Last Congress, the House passed this bill by voice vote.

This bipartisan, bicameral bill, which I introduced with Republican RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and which has been introduced in the Senate by Democrat CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of Maryland and Republican SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO of West Virginia would require the General Services Administration to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children's Museum, a congressionally designated museum, to allow the museum to remain in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, a Federally owned building in the Nation's capital without charge for the duration of its existing lease.

The National Building Museum operates under such an agreement. The National Children's Museum is the only congressionally designated museum required to pay rent in a Federal building.

Originally named the Capital Children's Museum, the museum was a staple in D.C. for decades. The museum opened in 1974 in a former convent on H Street Northeast. In 2003, Congress recognized the immense value of having a children's museum in the Nation's capital and officially designated the museum as the National Children's Museum.

After being closed for several years, the museum reopened last year in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in downtown D.C. where it immediately attracted visitors from throughout the Nation's capital and the entire Nation. However, only 18 days later, the coronavirus pandemic forced the museum to close its physical space.

Still, the museum continued to offer valuable online resources to our children as they navigated new, challenging learning circumstances, including over 75 at-home experiment and project video programs and monthly podcasts. The museum has served teachers in 45 States and the District through its virtual field trips since the pandemic began. However, due to revenue losses during the pandemic and other costs, the museum has said it will close permanently without enactment of this bill.

This bill would allow the National Children's Museum to continue to benefit the millions who visit and live in the Nation's capital and the national capital region.

Madam Speaker, I support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to lead this effort with my good friend and colleague, the chair of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee, Ms. NORTON.

As Congresswoman NORTON said, this important legislation directs the General Services Administration to provide rent relief to the National Children's Museum that is currently housed in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center right here in Washington, D.C.

Currently, the museum is the only federally designated museum sitting in a Federal building that is required to pay rent. This bill will give the museum the same benefits afforded to other congressionally designated museums.

Prepandemic, the museum offered our children the ability to interact with exhibits that were focused on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. And that allowed children to foster a greater appreciation for our STEM fields.

As our country reopens and we look to the future, the museum will continue to build off that success and become even more valuable of a resource for our youth. In that spirit, I actually look forward to visiting with some of my colleagues soon and talking about this important bill. It is just frustrating that it is the only museum that is congressionally directed that has to pay another government agency, the GSA, for rent when they weren't allowed to be open.

So this is a commonsense bill. It has been great to work with Congresswoman NORTON, and I support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the remarks of my good friend, Mr. DAVIS, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank Ms. NORTON for her cooperation on this. It is great to be back on the floor and see everybody. I enjoy this greatly. I certainly hope everybody supports this commonsense bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, like my friend, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1703, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

OCEAN POLLUTION REDUCTION ACT II

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 587) to modify permitting requirements with respect to the discharge of any pollutant from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 587

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II".

SEC. 2. SAN DIEGO POINT LOMA PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Administrator may issue a permit under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) for a discharge from the Point Loma Plant into marine waters that requires compliance with the requirements described in subsection (b).

(b) CONDITIONS.—A permit issued under this section shall require—

(1) maintenance of the currently designed deep ocean outfall from the Point Loma Plant with a discharge depth of not less than 300 feet and distance from the shore of not less than 4 miles;

(2) as applicable to the term of the permit, discharge of not more than 12,000 metric tons of total suspended solids per year commencing on the date of enactment of this section, not more than 11,500 metric tons of total suspended solids per year commencing on December 31, 2025, and not more than 9,942 metric tons of total suspended solids per year commencing on December 31, 2027;

(3) discharge of not more than 60 milligrams per liter of total suspended solids, calculated as a 30-day average;

(4) removal of not less than 80 percent of total suspended solids on a monthly average and not less than 58 percent of biochemical oxygen demand on an annual average, taking into account removal occurring at all treatment processes for wastewater upstream from and at the Point Loma Plant;

(5) attainment of all other effluent limitations of secondary treatment as determined by the Administrator pursuant to section 304(d)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1314(d)(1)), other than any requirements otherwise applicable to the discharge of biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids;

(6) compliance with the requirements applicable to Federal issuance of a permit under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, including State concurrence consistent with section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341) and ocean discharge criteria evaluation pursuant to section 403 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1343);

(7) implementation of the pretreatment program requirements of paragraphs (5) and (6) of section 301(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(h)) in addition to the requirements of section 402(b)(8) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(b)(8));

(8) that the applicant provide 10 consecutive years of ocean monitoring data and analysis for the period immediately preceding the date of each application for a permit under this section sufficient to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Administrator that the discharge of pollutants pursuant to a permit issued under this section will meet the requirements of section 301(h)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(h)(2)) and that the applicant has established and will maintain throughout the permit term an ocean monitoring program that meets or exceeds the requirements of section 301(h)(3) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(h)(3)); and

(9) to the extent potable reuse is permitted by Federal and State regulatory agencies,

that the applicant demonstrate that at least 83,000,000 gallons per day on an annual average of water suitable for potable reuse will be produced by December 31, 2035, taking into account production of water suitable for potable reuse occurring at all treatment processes for wastewater upstream from and at the Point Loma Plant.

(c) MILESTONES.—The Administrator shall determine development milestones necessary to ensure compliance with this section and include such milestones as conditions in each permit issued under this section before December 31, 2035.

(d) SECONDARY TREATMENT.—Nothing in this section prevents the applicant from alternatively submitting an application for the Point Loma Plant that complies with secondary treatment pursuant to section 301(b)(1)(B) and section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(b)(1)(B); 33 U.S.C. 1342).

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND.—The term “biochemical oxygen demand” means biological oxygen demand, as such term is used in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

(3) POINT LOMA PLANT.—The term “Point Loma Plant” means the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant owned by the City of San Diego on the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 587.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

□ 1245

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the city of San Diego in support of H.R. 587.

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO,
San Diego, CA, June 14, 2021.

Hon. SCOTT PETERS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PETERS: On behalf of the City of San Diego, I am writing to you in support of the Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II (OPRA II) H.R. 587.

OPRA II is the product of a decades-long regional collaboration and will deploy advanced technology to purify recycled water. Additionally, this legislation is critical to implementing the comprehensive Pure Water San Diego program, which will provide a reliable, sustainable source of drinking water while simultaneously reducing treated discharge to the ocean by nearly 50 percent. This bill delivers certainty and provides a more streamlined process to comply with

regulations, provided the City meets stringent water recycling milestones.

Under OPRA II, the City of San Diego must demonstrate that its Pure Water program is able to produce 83 million gallons of water a day, nearly one-half of the City's water supply demand by 2036. Over the same period, the program is expected to reduce treated discharge from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant, which will be continuously monitored and subjected to ongoing research efforts by academic, local, state, and national entities.

The City of San Diego is grateful for your leadership on this important legislative effort.

Sincerely,

TODD GLORIA,
Mayor,
City of San Diego.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 587. The legislation, introduced by Representative SCOTT PETERS, clarifies that the city of San Diego, California, can utilize the standard Clean Water Act National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit process to continue operation of the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant with alternative standards.

The legislation, which provides regulatory accountability and consistency to the city, has the support of surrounding localities, local public works departments and water districts, as well as local nongovernmental and environmental organizations.

Currently, the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant applies for and receives a waiver under the Clean Water Act to discharge wastewater with less than full secondary treatment, the baseline requirement of the Clean Water Act. The facility qualifies for the waiver by meeting certain criteria and must renew its application every 5 years.

As part of a long-term effort, the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant is working to reduce its discharges to coastal waters. This effort involves water recycling and will redirect a portion of the facility's discharge. However, the facility's discharges to coastal waters will never be eliminated.

To be clear, this legislation is not a waiver of all the requirements of the Clean Water Act, and the facility will need to comply with the other requirements of the act.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 587, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 587, introduced by Congressman PETERS from California and others from his home State, is a bipartisan bill that aims to make permanent a regulatory exemption under the Clean Water Act. This exemption allows certain wastewater treatment facilities seeking to discharge to the ocean to apply for permit modifications that offer alternatives to the Clean Water Act's secondary treatment standards.

These alternative standards must be met every 5 years during the normal

permit renewal period. This permit renewal process is lengthy, complex, and costly.

The city of San Diego's Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant has been operating under this regulatory exemption for well over two decades.

The objectives of this bill are worthy and a win-win for the city and the environment.

Madam Speaker, the bill will help ensure that San Diego has long-term certainty for its water supply and will save the city millions of dollars and protect regional ratepayers from billions in new costs by providing this regulatory certainty while preserving applicable standards.

Madam Speaker, I support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS).

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I introduced the Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II, or OPRA II, for three reasons: one, to ensure that the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant's waiver process is fair and efficient; two, to further reduce the facility's pollution output to the ocean; and three, to increase our region's freshwater supply.

The city's proposed wastewater recycling plan, the Pure Water Program, will guarantee the region's water security and further reduce the amount of wastewater that flows into the ocean from the plant.

OPRA II requires that the city of San Diego demonstrate that the Pure Water Program can produce 83 million gallons of freshwater a day by 2036. This is an estimated one-third of the entire city's drinking water needs. Over the same period, the program is expected to reduce treated wastewater flows from the Point Loma plant by over 100 million gallons.

This bill replaces the complex and expensive secondary treatment waiver application with a simpler process, as long as the city meets stringent water recycling milestones.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 587 would support the water recycling and conservation efforts of the city of San Diego's Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant by making permanent its longstanding regulatory exemption under the Clean Water Act.

Madam Speaker, this is a good bill, and I urge support of this bipartisan legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 587.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

PROMOTING UNITED GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO SAVE OUR SOUND ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1144) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for programs and activities to protect the water quality of the Puget Sound, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1144

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound Act” or the “PUGET SOS Act”.

SEC. 2. PUGET SOUND COORDINATED RECOVERY.

Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 124. PUGET SOUND.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COASTAL NONPOINT POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM.—The term ‘Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program’ means the State of Washington’s Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program approved under section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990.

“(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Program Office.

“(3) FEDERAL ACTION PLAN.—The term ‘Federal Action Plan’ means the plan developed under subsection (c)(3)(B).

“(4) INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION.—The term ‘International Joint Commission’ means the International Joint Commission established by the Treaty relating to the boundary waters and questions arising along the boundary between the United States and Canada, signed at Washington January 11, 1909, and entered into force May 5, 1910 (36 Stat. 2448; TS 548; 12 Bevans 319).

“(5) PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION.—The term ‘Pacific Salmon Commission’ means the Pacific Salmon Commission established by the United States and Canada under the Treaty concerning Pacific salmon, with annexes and memorandum of understanding, signed at Ottawa January 28, 1985, and entered into force March 18, 1985 (TIAS 11091; 1469 UNTS 357) (commonly known as the ‘Pacific Salmon Treaty’).

“(6) PROGRAM OFFICE.—The term ‘Program Office’ means the Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office established by subsection (b).

“(7) PUGET SOUND ACTION AGENDA; ACTION AGENDA.—The term ‘Puget Sound Action Agenda’ or ‘Action Agenda’ means the most recent plan developed by the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference, in consultation with the Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference, and approved by the Administrator as the comprehensive conservation and management plan for the Puget Sound under section 320.

“(8) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE.—The term ‘Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force’ means the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force established under subsection (c).

“(9) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL TASK FORCE.—The term ‘Puget Sound Federal Task Force’ means the Puget Sound Federal Task Force established in 2016 under a memorandum of understanding among 9 Federal agencies.

“(10) PUGET SOUND NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.—The term ‘Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference’ means the management conference for the Puget Sound convened pursuant to section 320.

“(11) PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘Puget Sound Partnership’ means the State agency created under the laws of the State of Washington (section 90.71.210 of the Revised Code of Washington), or its successor agency that has been designated by the Administrator as the lead entity to support the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference.

“(12) PUGET SOUND REGION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘Puget Sound region’ means the land and waters in the northwest corner of the State of Washington from the Canadian border to the north to the Pacific Ocean on the west, including Hood Canal and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

“(B) INCLUSION.—The term ‘Puget Sound region’ includes all watersheds that drain into the Puget Sound.

“(13) PUGET SOUND TRIBAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.—The term ‘Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference’ means the 20 treaty Indian tribes of western Washington and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

“(14) SALISH SEA.—The term ‘Salish Sea’ means the network of coastal waterways on the west coast of North America that includes the Puget Sound, the Strait of Georgia, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

“(15) SALMON RECOVERY PLANS.—The term ‘Salmon Recovery Plans’ means the recovery plans for salmon and steelhead species approved by the Secretary of the Interior under section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 that are applicable to the Puget Sound region.

“(16) STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term ‘State Advisory Committee’ means the advisory committee established by subsection (d).

“(17) TREATY RIGHTS AT RISK INITIATIVE.—The term ‘Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative’ means the report from the treaty Indian tribes of western Washington entitled ‘Treaty Rights At Risk: Ongoing Habitat Loss, the Decline of the Salmon Resource, and Recommendations for Change’ and dated July 14, 2011, or its successor report that outlines issues and offers solutions for the protection of Tribal treaty rights, recovery of salmon habitat, and management of sustainable treaty and nontreaty salmon fisheries, including through Tribal salmon hatchery programs.

“(b) PUGET SOUND RECOVERY NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Environmental Protection Agency a Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office, to be located in the State of Washington.

“(2) DIRECTOR.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be a Director of the Program Office, who shall have leadership and project management experience and shall be highly qualified to—

“(i) direct the integration of multiple project planning efforts and programs from different agencies and jurisdictions; and

“(ii) align numerous, and possibly competing, priorities to accomplish visible and measurable outcomes under the Action Agenda.

“(B) POSITION.—The position of Director of the Program Office shall be a career reserved position, as such term is defined in section 3132 of title 5, United States Code.

“(3) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY; STAFFING.—Using amounts made available pursuant to subsection (h), the Administrator shall delegate to the Director such authority and provide such staff as may be necessary to carry out this section.

“(4) DUTIES.—The Director shall—

“(A) coordinate and manage the timely execution of the requirements of this section, including the formation and meetings of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force;

“(B) coordinate activities related to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound across the Environmental Protection Agency;

“(C) coordinate and align the activities of the Administrator with the Action Agenda, Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program;

“(D) promote the efficient use of Environmental Protection Agency resources in pursuit of the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound;

“(E) serve on the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force and collaborate with, help coordinate, and implement activities with other Federal agencies that have responsibilities involving the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound;

“(F) provide or procure such other advice, technical assistance, research, assessments, monitoring, or other support as is determined by the Director to be necessary or prudent to most efficiently and effectively fulfill the objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, consistent with the best available science, to ensure the health of the Puget Sound ecosystem;

“(G) track the progress of the Environmental Protection Agency towards meeting the agency’s specified objectives and priorities within the Action Agenda and the Federal Action Plan;

“(H) implement the recommendations of the Comptroller General set forth in the report entitled ‘Puget Sound Restoration: Additional Actions Could Improve Assessments of Progress’ and dated July 19, 2018;

“(I) serve as liaison and coordinate activities for the restoration and protection of the Salish Sea with Canadian authorities, the Pacific Salmon Commission, and the International Joint Commission; and

“(J) carry out such additional duties as the Director determines necessary and appropriate.

“(c) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(A) COMPOSITION.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

“(i) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture:

“(I) A representative of the National Forest Service.

“(II) A representative of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

“(ii) A representative of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration appointed by the Secretary of Commerce.

“(iii) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Defense:

“(I) A representative of the Corps of Engineers.

“(II) A representative of the Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

“(III) A representative of the Commander, Navy Region Northwest.

“(iv) The Director of the Program Office.

“(v) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Homeland Security:

“(I) A representative of the Coast Guard.

“(II) A representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(vi) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of the Interior:

“(I) A representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

“(II) A representative of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

“(III) A representative of the United States Geological Survey.

“(IV) A representative of the National Park Service.

“(vii) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Transportation:

“(I) A representative of the Federal Highway Administration.

“(II) A representative of the Federal Transit Administration.

“(viii) Representatives of such other Federal agencies, programs, and initiatives as the other members of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force determines necessary.

“(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members appointed under this paragraph shall have experience and expertise in matters of restoration and protection of large watersheds and bodies of water, or related experience that will benefit the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

“(C) CO-CHAIRS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The following members of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force:

“(I) The representative of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(II) The Director of the Program Office.

“(III) The representative of the Corps of Engineers.

“(ii) LEADERSHIP.—The Co-Chairs shall ensure the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force completes its duties through robust discussion of all relevant issues. The Co-Chairs shall share leadership responsibilities equally.

“(3) DUTIES.—

“(A) GENERAL DUTIES.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall—

“(i) uphold Federal trust responsibilities to restore and protect resources crucial to Tribal treaty rights, including by carrying out government-to-government consultation with Indian tribes when requested by such tribes;

“(ii) provide a venue for dialogue and coordination across all Federal agencies represented by a member of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force to align Federal resources for the purposes of carrying out the requirements of this section and all other Federal laws that contribute to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound, including by—

“(I) enabling and encouraging such agencies to act consistently with the objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights

at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program;

“(II) facilitating the coordination of Federal activities that impact such restoration and protection;

“(III) facilitating the delivery of feedback given by such agencies to the Puget Sound Partnership during the development of the Action Agenda;

“(IV) facilitating the resolution of inter-agency conflicts associated with such restoration and protection among such agencies;

“(V) providing a forum for exchanging information among such agencies regarding activities being conducted, including obstacles or efficiencies found, during restoration and protection activities; and

“(VI) promoting the efficient use of government resources in pursuit of such restoration and protection through coordination and collaboration, including by ensuring that the Federal efforts relating to the science necessary for such restoration and protection are consistent, and not duplicative, across the Federal Government;

“(iii) catalyze public leaders at all levels to work together toward shared goals by demonstrating interagency best practices coming from such agencies;

“(iv) provide advice and support on scientific and technical issues and act as a forum for the exchange of scientific information about the Puget Sound;

“(v) identify and inventory Federal environmental research and monitoring programs related to the Puget Sound, and provide such inventory to the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference;

“(vi) ensure that Puget Sound restoration and protection activities are as consistent as practicable with ongoing restoration and protection and related efforts in the Salish Sea that are being conducted by Canadian authorities, the Pacific Salmon Commission, and the International Joint Commission;

“(vii) ensure that Puget Sound restoration and protection activities are consistent with national security interests;

“(viii) establish any working groups or committees necessary to assist the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force in its duties, including relating to public policy and scientific issues; and

“(ix) raise national awareness of the significance of the Puget Sound.

“(B) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL ACTION PLAN.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall develop and approve a Federal Action Plan that leverages Federal programs across agencies and serves to coordinate diverse programs and priorities for the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

“(ii) REVISION OF PUGET SOUND FEDERAL ACTION PLAN.—Not less often than once every 5 years after the date of approval of the Federal Action Plan under clause (i), the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall review, and revise as appropriate, the Federal Action Plan.

“(C) FEEDBACK BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In facilitating feedback under subparagraph (A)(ii)(III), the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall request Federal agencies to consider, at a minimum, possible Federal actions within the Puget Sound region designed to—

“(i) further the goals, targets, and actions of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program;

“(ii) as applicable, implement and enforce this Act, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and all other Federal laws that contribute to

the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound, including those that protect Tribal treaty rights;

“(iii) prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species;

“(iv) protect marine and wildlife habitats;

“(v) protect, restore, and conserve forests, wetlands, riparian zones, and nearshore waters;

“(vi) promote resilience to climate change and ocean acidification effects;

“(vii) restore fisheries so that they are sustainable and productive;

“(viii) preserve biodiversity;

“(ix) restore and protect ecosystem services that provide clean water, filter toxic chemicals, and increase ecosystem resilience; and

“(x) improve water quality, including by preventing and managing stormwater runoff, incorporating erosion control techniques and trash capture devices, using sustainable stormwater practices, and mitigating and minimizing nonpoint source pollution, including marine litter.

“(4) PARTICIPATION OF STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PUGET SOUND TRIBAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall carry out its duties with input from, and in collaboration with, the State Advisory Committee and the Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference, including by seeking advice and recommendations on the actions, progress, and issues pertaining to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

“(5) MEETINGS.—

“(A) INITIAL MEETING.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall meet not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section—

“(i) to determine if all Federal agencies are properly represented;

“(ii) to establish the bylaws of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force;

“(iii) to establish necessary working groups or committees; and

“(iv) to determine subsequent meeting times, dates, and logistics.

“(B) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—After the initial meeting, the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall meet, at a minimum, twice per year to carry out the duties of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

“(C) WORKING GROUP MEETINGS.—A meeting of any established working group or committee of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall not be considered a biannual meeting for purposes of subparagraph (B).

“(D) JOINT MEETINGS.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force—

“(i) shall offer to meet jointly with the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference and the Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference, at a minimum, once per year; and

“(ii) may consider such a joint meeting to be a biannual meeting of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force for purposes of subparagraph (B).

“(E) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall constitute a quorum.

“(F) VOTING.—For the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force to take an official action, a quorum shall be present, and at least a two-thirds majority of the members present shall vote in the affirmative.

“(6) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE PROCEDURES AND ADVICE.—

“(A) ADVISORS.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force may seek advice and input from any interested, knowledgeable, or affected party as the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force determines necessary to perform its duties.

“(B) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall receive no additional compensation for service as a member on the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

“(C) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Travel expenses incurred by a member of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force in the performance of service on the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force may be paid by the agency that the member represents.

“(7) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL TASK FORCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—On the date of enactment of this section, the 2016 memorandum of understanding establishing the Puget Sound Federal Task Force shall cease to be effective.

“(B) USE OF PREVIOUS WORK.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall, to the extent practicable, use the work product produced, relied upon, and analyzed by the Puget Sound Federal Task Force in order to avoid duplicating the efforts of the Puget Sound Federal Task Force.

“(d) STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a State Advisory Committee.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The State Advisory Committee shall consist of up to seven members designated by the governing body of the Puget Sound Partnership, in consultation with the Governor of Washington, who will represent Washington State agencies that have significant roles and responsibilities related to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

“(e) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, State Advisory Committee, and any working group or committee of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, shall not be considered an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

“(f) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE BIENNIAL REPORT ON PUGET SOUND RESTORATION AND PROTECTION ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and biennially thereafter, the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, in collaboration with the Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference and the State Advisory Committee, shall submit to the President, Congress, the Governor of Washington, and the governing body of the Puget Sound Partnership a report that summarizes the progress, challenges, and milestones of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force relating to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the following:

“(A) The roles and progress of each State, local government entity, and Federal agency that has jurisdiction in the Puget Sound region relating to meeting the identified objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

“(B) If available, the roles and progress of Tribal governments that have jurisdiction in the Puget Sound region relating to meeting the identified objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

“(C) A summary of specific recommendations concerning implementation of the Action Agenda and the Federal Action Plan, including challenges, barriers, and anticipated milestones, targets, and timelines.

“(D) A summary of progress made by Federal agencies toward the priorities identified in the Federal Action Plan.

“(g) CROSSCUT BUDGET REPORT.—

“(1) FINANCIAL REPORT.—As soon as practicable, but not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, shall, in conjunction with the annual budget submission of the President to Congress for the year under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, submit to Congress and make available to the public, including on the internet, a financial report that is certified by the head of each agency represented by a member of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall contain an interagency crosscut budget relating to Puget Sound restoration and protection activities that displays—

“(A) the proposed funding for any Federal restoration and protection activity to be carried out in the succeeding fiscal year, including any planned interagency or intra-agency transfer, for each of the Federal agencies that carry out restoration and protection activities;

“(B) the estimated expenditures for Federal restoration and protection activities from the preceding 2 fiscal years, the current fiscal year, and the succeeding fiscal year; and

“(C) the estimated expenditures for Federal environmental research and monitoring programs from the preceding 2 fiscal years, the current fiscal year, and the succeeding fiscal year.

“(3) INCLUDED RECOVERY ACTIVITIES.—With respect to activities described in the report, the report shall only describe activities that have a total Federal cost of more than \$100,000.

“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to any other funds authorized to be appropriated for activities related to the Puget Sound, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

“(i) TRIBAL RIGHTS AND CONSULTATION.—

“(1) PRESERVATION OF TRIBAL TREATY RIGHTS.—Nothing in this section affects, or is intended to affect, any right reserved by treaty between the United States and one or more Indian tribes.

“(2) CONSULTATION.—Nothing in this section affects any authorization or obligation of a Federal agency to consult with an Indian tribe under any other provision of law.

“(j) CONSISTENCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Actions authorized or implemented under this section shall be consistent with—

“(A) the Salmon Recovery Plans;

“(B) the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program; and

“(C) the water quality standards of the State of Washington approved by the Administrator under section 303.

“(2) FEDERAL ACTIONS.—All Federal agencies represented on the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall act consistently with the protection of Tribal, treaty-reserved rights and, to the greatest extent practicable given such agencies' existing obligations under Federal law, act consistently with the objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, when—

“(A) conducting Federal agency activities within or outside the Puget Sound that affect any land or water use or natural resources of the Puget Sound region, including

activities performed by a contractor for the benefit of a Federal agency;

“(B) interpreting and enforcing regulations that impact the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound;

“(C) issuing Federal licenses or permits that impact the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound; and

“(D) granting Federal assistance to State, local, and Tribal governments for activities related to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1144, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1144. The bill establishes a new regional program within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to address water pollution concerns in the Puget Sound and authorizes \$50 million annually for fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

The Puget Sound has seen significant degradation of water quality and habitat as a result of human development. This legislation builds on the successes Puget Sound has seen while part of the National Estuary Program and incorporates the recommendations of a July 2018 report of the U.S. Government Accountability Office on the Federal and State efforts to restore the Sound.

This legislation is vitally important to ensure long-term health of a watershed that helps provide food, water, and other ecosystem services for 4.5 million people and contributes to the State's economy.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1144, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1144, the PUGET SOS Act, codifies the Environmental Protection Agency's existing restoration work in the Puget Sound and establishes a Puget Sound program office.

Puget Sound was one of the first estuaries designated within the National Estuary Program in 1987, and EPA has worked with Federal and non-Federal entities to coordinate restoration efforts. This bill ensures this important work will continue.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER).

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of the Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound Act, or the PUGET SOS Act, and I thank my good friend and colleague, Representative STRICKLAND, for her partnership on this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, those of us who are lucky to call the better Washington home know that Puget Sound is our most iconic body of water. Generations of our friends and neighbors have built their lives and earned their livelihoods on the Sound.

We know the Puget Sound is critical to the environmental and economic future of our region. And some of our region's most iconic species, including salmon, orca, and Dungeness crab, rely on a healthy Puget Sound.

But despite years of efforts to protect and restore Puget Sound, we still have a lot of work to do to address the significant challenges, including storm water runoff, habitat loss, and harmful algal blooms, that continue to threaten this crown jewel of our region's identity and economy.

That is why I am proud to see the House advance this critical bill, which will finally bring to bear the coordinated Federal resources necessary to save our Sound. If we are going to recover our salmon and orca populations, if we are going to ensure future generations can dig for clams, if we are going to respect and uphold Tribal treaty rights, we need the Federal Government to step up and support the work already being done by the State, Tribes, local communities, and businesses that all depend on a vibrant and healthy Puget Sound.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that this bill represents meaningful progress toward these goals. If future generations, including my two kiddos, are going to have the opportunities to enjoy these treasures and to build their livelihoods in our region, we have to act now to protect and restore the Sound.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critical bill.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. STRICKLAND).

Ms. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1144, the PUGET SOS Act, which I am honored to co-lead with Congressman KILMER, who I thank for working on this bill over the years. I also thank the Puget Sound Partnership and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission for all their help. I am proud to work with you to restore Puget Sound.

Madam Speaker, as a western Washington native, I know how critical the health of the Puget Sound is to our region—economically, culturally, and environmentally.

The Sound is an economic engine creating over \$30 billion in economic ac-

tivity and supporting nearly 150,000 jobs. It is a biodiversity hotspot, home to over 7,000 different species, including 200 different types of fish. It is a sacred resource for Tribal nations throughout the region who rely on the flora and fauna the Sound supports for their lives and livelihoods. And it is a cultural treasure, with the salmon, shellfish, orca, and others which live in the ecosystem, that is fundamental to the history and identity of the Pacific Northwest.

For years, this ecosystem has been on the brink of danger, and we are at a tipping point. As the human population continues to grow significantly, the risks and strain on Puget Sound intensify.

This legislation takes much-needed, timely steps to secure the health of the Puget Sound now and into the future by establishing a dedicated program office within the EPA and codifying the Puget Sound Federal Task Force. Together, these groups will develop a Federal action plan to preserve and restore this most critical national maritime treasure.

Washingtonians view and use Puget Sound the way Marylanders view the Chesapeake Bay and how Michiganders view the Great Lakes. It is well past time the Federal Government does as well.

If we really want to make an impact, and support hundreds of thousands of jobs while trying to save orcas and salmon, we must act now.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1300

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the Puget Sound watershed has long provided food, clean water, and other ecosystem benefits for 4.5 million people and a wide variety of species as well. The region is essential to the State's economy. Human development and other actions have degraded the water quality and habitat of the Sound, including that of critical species like salmon and orca whales.

The Puget Sound was deemed an Estuary of National Significance in 1988, and in 2018, GAO determined that further investment and a program with clear leadership and coordination of objectives is crucial to achieving the long-term restoration and protection goals of this diverse and dynamic ecosystem.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), the ranking member on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to also

thank my colleague from Washington State (Mr. KILMER) for his attention to the Puget Sound, and his commitment to putting us on a better path.

The Puget Sound is in crisis. The salmon in Puget Sound, the salmon that are most crucial to the orcas, are in crisis. You can see right here; this is the State of Salmon report. This is the graphic Washington State of Salmon report, and it says that the Puget Sound Chinook, the Puget Sound steelhead—over here—are in crisis.

And I might just point out, the Snake River Chinook are actually approaching goal. The Snake River steelhead are making progress. It is part of the reason that I believe the Puget Sound SOS Act is so important, to bring much needed oversight and enforcement of Federal pollution standards in Puget Sound. But we must do more.

Despite NOAA's research indicating that these salmon stocks are the most critical to our orcas, the State of Washington continues to allow outdated sewage treatment plants to illegally dump raw sewage into the Sound, creating conditions that are literally suffocating the salmon.

Over the years, 80 sewage treatment plants have illegally dumped toxins into the Sound, and now the Washington State Department of Ecology is considering permits to allow 58 plants to continue poisoning the water. It is unacceptable.

By establishing a Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office, I hope this bill will finally push the EPA to hold the State of Washington accountable for the damage that unchecked pollution in the Sound is doing for our endangered salmon and orcas.

It is also critically important that we stop this pollution at its source so that the money we are authorizing for the Puget Sound Recovery Act is actually effective.

Madam Speaker, I am urging leadership in my State, stop the sewage, save our Sound, save our salmon, save our orcas.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, in closing, H.R. 1144 would continue the EPA's management of a competitive grant program to support projects that protect and restore the Puget Sound.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1144, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

LOCAL WATER PROTECTION ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2008) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to nonpoint source management, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2008

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Local Water Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.

Section 319(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1329(j)) is amended by striking “subsections (h) and (i) not to exceed” and all that follows through “fiscal year 1991” and inserting “subsections (h) and (i) \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2008.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2008. H.R. 2008 is a bipartisan bill to reauthorize appropriations for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Nonpoint Source Management grants program. I would like to thank my colleagues, Ms. CRAIG from Minnesota and Mr. MAST from Florida, for introducing this bill.

Nonpoint sources of water pollution come from many diffuse sources, including runoff from farms, managed forests, and urban areas. This runoff can carry pollutants, such as fertilizers and sediment from fields and lawns, toxins from abandoned mines, and oils and heavy metals from roads into lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water. Nationally, some 55 percent of assessed rivers and streams currently do not meet State water quality standards.

The Clean Water Act was enacted in 1972 to restore and maintain the chem-

ical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. In 1987, the Clean Water Act was amended to add section 319 to create a non-regulatory program through which EPA administers annual grants to help States develop and implement their own programs for managing nonpoint sources of water pollution.

Under EPA's 319 program, States retain the primary role for addressing nonpoint source water pollution, which they do largely through voluntary means and financial incentives. However, according to the General Accounting Office, the extent of the available incentives has declined in recent years, as grants to States under the section 319 program have declined by more than 30 percent from a high of about \$240 million annually in fiscal year 2004.

The section 319 program was initially authorized at \$70 million annually in fiscal year 1988, and its authorization level steadily increased to \$130 million in fiscal year 1991, the last year of authorization for this program.

Since that time, the section 319 program has continued to receive funds through the annual appropriation for EPA. In fiscal year 2021, the section 319 program received a Federal appropriation of \$177 million, and the President's fiscal year 2022 budget request proposes an increase in funding for the program to \$180 million.

H.R. 2008 would authorize \$200 million annually for the section 319 program through 2026. This would be a modest increase of the current appropriated level for this popular program, but less than the historic peak appropriation for this program in the early 2000s.

Again, I thank Ms. CRAIG and Mr. MAST for leading this bipartisan bill. This legislation passed out of committee with bipartisan support and is a good bill for a valuable program.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2008 reauthorizes the Environmental Protection Agency's section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control program under the Clean Water Act.

Reauthorizing this program reinforces the Federal leadership that helps our State and local partners in their efforts to control nonpoint source pollution.

For example, my home State of North Carolina typically receives \$1 million for competitive grant funding for watershed restoration projects. This money is put to good use conducting watershed restoration projects like stormwater and agricultural best management practices and restoration of impaired streams affected by nonpoint source pollution.

In my district, some of these grant funds are being used to reduce

stormwater runoff volume on the campus of UNC-Wilmington.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG).

Ms. CRAIG. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2008, the Local Water Protection Act.

Madam Speaker, in the Land of 10,000 Lakes, we take water quality very seriously. Not only are our lakes and waterways critical for transporting agriculture goods, but they are at the core of Minnesota's natural beauty and tourism economy.

That is why I was so proud to introduce the bipartisan Local Water Protection Act to reauthorize funding for pollution mitigation efforts in our communities.

From 1987 to 1991, Congress authorized funds each year for the Environmental Protection Agency's Nonpoint Source Management grants program, which provides grants to State and local governments to reduce water pollution.

Our Local Water Protection Act would reauthorize funding for this important task with \$200 million annually to help protect our lakes, rivers, and streams, and protect them for future generations.

This program would give State and local governments the authority to create locally-focused, voluntary conservation programs that are tailor-made for their own communities. And recent history in my home district demonstrates that these programs are incredibly effective.

In fact, the Goodhue County Soil and Water Conservation District is currently working to reduce pollutants in the Mississippi River-Lake Pepin watershed by 20 percent. And I would add, I was out there on Lake Pepin just this last weekend with some great folks.

In Wabasha County, these projects provided low-interest loans to improve residential infrastructure and help farmers come into compliance with pollution standards.

And the South Washington Watershed District integrated a stormwater reuse plan that is estimated to reduce potable water usage by more than 40 million gallons annually. There is no doubt that these programs can be effective, and there is no good reason why we shouldn't prioritize them.

As we look toward preserving our environment, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) for introducing the bill with me.

Madam Speaker, thank you so much, and I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in closing, the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control program has benefited water bodies all across the country and reauthorizing this program will reinforce this successful cooperative Federal, State, and local partnership to control nonpoint sources of pollution around the country.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2008.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

□ 1315

AMENDING THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT TO REAUTHORIZE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1921) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1921

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) REVIEW OF COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Section 121 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1273) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) ensure that the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved for the Basin under section 320 is reviewed and revised in accordance with section 320 not less often than once every 5 years, beginning on the date of enactment of this paragraph.”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “recommended by a management conference convened for the Basin under section 320” and inserting “identified in the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved for the Basin under section 320”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 121(e)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1273(e)(1)) is amended by striking “, a 5,000 square mile”.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 121(f) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1273(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “2001 through 2012 and the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2009 for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2017” and inserting “2022 through 2026”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Administrator may use for administrative expenses not more than 5 percent of the amounts appropriated to carry out this section.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1921.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1921. This legislation reauthorizes the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program for 5 years at \$20 million annually and provides for regular reporting on the progress of the program.

Some 2.1 million people live in the area surrounding Lake Pontchartrain, which is threatened by pollution related to urban and agricultural runoff, sewage overflows, and nonpoint source pollution. The Basin Restoration Program helps address these environmental challenges in a nonregulatory fashion and has made some progress. With continued funding and reauthorization, the program can continue implementing projects related to restoration.

During a Water Resources Subcommittee hearing last Congress, some implementation issues related to this program were identified. Ranking Member GRAVES and Chair DEFAZIO requested that the U.S. Government Accountability Office study the program implementation; however, those issues should not prevent us from acting on this bill today.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1921, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1921, the Protect and Restore Lake Pontchartrain Basin Act, introduced by my friend GARRET GRAVES from Louisiana, would reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program to provide

assistance to the Federal, State, and local watershed partners in addressing the water quality challenges that are in this especially sensitive area.

I support the critical work these partners are doing to help restore the water quality of the lake, and this bill will help continue this work.

I commend Aviation Subcommittee Ranking Member GARRET GRAVES for his leadership on this issue, and I urge support of this legislation. I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), who is the Aviation Subcommittee ranking member.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to talk about this important legislation.

Before I get started, I do want to thank the chair of the subcommittee, Mrs. NAPOLITANO; the ranking member, Mr. ROUZER from North Carolina; Chairman DEFAZIO; and Ranking Member SAM GRAVES as well. I do want to thank some of the other partners from Louisiana we worked with, Congressman STEVE SCALISE, former Congressman Cedric Richmond, and Congressman TROY CARTER, who all worked with us on this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, Lake Pontchartrain is one of the largest saltwater lakes in the United States. It is incredibly productive. It is a productive ecosystem. There is much fishing, shrimping, and crabbing and oysters that are produced there. As a matter of fact, since 1997, over 40 million pounds of blue crabs have been produced almost annually.

The secret, Madam Speaker, if you can keep this between the two of us, is that much of that is actually headed to Maryland restaurants to improve Maryland crab cakes. That is right. Just don't tell anybody. They also put spice on the outside of the shells. It is really confusing what they do. The meat is on the inside.

But in any case, Madam Speaker, this is a huge watershed. It is about a 10,000-square-mile watershed, that comprises 16 parishes and four Mississippi counties, into this lake.

But more importantly, and why there is a Federal nexus here, is that, since the first time in 1937, they open the nearly 7,000-acre Bonnet Carre Spillway to shift water from the Mississippi River into Lake Pontchartrain and ultimately to the Gulf of Mexico as an emergency pressure relief valve. You see, Madam Speaker, the Mississippi River drains 32 States and two Canadian provinces. This is one of the largest watersheds in the world, and the Mississippi River is the largest watershed in the United States.

When the water hits a certain level—again, since 1937, when they began opening this, and it has been opened an

average of once every 10 years—it sends huge flows, hundreds of thousands of cubic feet of water per second, out of the Mississippi River into the Bonnet Carre Spillway and into Lake Pontchartrain, and it shifts from a salt or a brackish lake into a freshwater lake because of this huge surge.

As a result of the floodwaters coming from Canada and all over the United States, they come and impact the ecosystem of this lake.

So, what this legislation does is builds upon some of the efforts for ecological restoration.

I want to thank the great work of Carlton Dufrechou, Kristi Trail, and others who have done an amazing job in working to restore the ecological function of Lake Pontchartrain.

I again want to thank all the cosponsors and folks who have helped us to work on this legislation. It did pass unanimously last Congress, and I want to remind everybody here that there is a huge Federal nexus with this legislation. I urge its adoption.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, H.R. 1921 would reauthorize an important program that supports the critical efforts of the Federal, State, and local watershed partners in restoring water quality in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1921.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

PREVENTING DISASTER REVICITIMIZATION ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 539) to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 539

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Preventing Disaster Revictimization Act”.

SEC. 2. FLEXIBILITY.

Section 1216(a) of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 5174a(a)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2)(A) to read as follows:

“(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), shall—

“(i) waive a debt owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household if the covered assistance was distributed based on an error by the Agency and such debt shall be construed as a hardship; and

“(ii) waive a debt owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household if such assistance is subject to a claim or legal action, including in accordance with section 317 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5160); and”;

and

(2) in paragraph (3)(B)—

(A) by striking “REMOVAL OF” and inserting “REPORT ON”; and

(B) in clause (ii) by striking “the authority of the Administrator to waive debt under paragraph (2) shall no longer be effective” and inserting “the Administrator shall report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate actions that the Administrator will take to reduce the error rate”.

SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report containing a description of the internal processes used to make decisions regarding the distribution of covered assistance under section 1216 of the Disaster Recovery and Reform Act of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 5174a) and any changes made to such processes.

SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 539.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 539, the Preventing Disaster Re-

victimization Act, introduced by Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member GRAVES from Missouri and Representatives CARBAJAL, GARAMENDI, HUFFMAN, THOMPSON, and LAMALFA of California.

This legislation is designed to ensure disaster survivors are not revictimized by recoupment—or clawbacks—of Federal disaster assistance they have received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Unfortunately, FEMA has repeatedly instructed disaster survivors to register for individual assistance for which they were ultimately not eligible, or granted qualified survivors more assistance than they should have received.

However, once FEMA identifies an error, it forces these survivors into a bureaucratic nightmare to appeal the debt that they now owe as a result of the agency’s error. I am not surprised that this still goes on, but I am disappointed that—given the technology and data we have at our fingertips—we have not been able to improve this system for survivors, especially considering that this program is just a small piece of the Federal disaster recovery apparatus.

H.R. 539 would waive survivors’ debt owed to the Federal Government in instances where FEMA erroneously distributed assistance. This bill would also provide a similar waiver to disaster survivors who may be involved in a legal action against a party deemed responsible for a disaster event. While this scenario is less common, it played out in California last year and jeopardized disaster relief for tens of thousands of families displaced by the unprecedented wildfires of the last few years.

Survivors have already been traumatized by a disaster—the Federal Government should not force them to endure a convoluted process to correct FEMA’s mistakes or decision to pursue legal action years after an event against a liable party.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am a proud sponsor of this bill, the Preventing Disaster Revictimization Act.

In 2018, Congress made the recovery process fairer and more equitable for communities when we passed important reforms to the disaster preparation and recovery processes. This bill builds upon those efforts by ensuring that funds spent by disaster victims aren’t clawed back by the government.

When victims apply—and this is in good faith, mind you—when victims apply for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and receive it from the agency, those individuals likely need to move quickly to use that assistance for eligible expenses like home repairs to speed up

recovery and to begin rebuilding their lives, for obvious reasons. So, these victims should never expect that FEMA is going to come back weeks, months, and sometimes even years later and say: Oops, we made a mistake. Now you, the victim, are going to have to give back those funds that you have already put to good use.

To add insult to injury, FEMA's information on how disaster victims can appeal these decisions is incredibly confusing, and it is absolutely insufficient.

Remember, this is due to no fault of their own, but many disaster victims are faced with debt collectors and the full force of the Federal Government when it comes to repaying these funds.

This is absolutely unacceptable. People acting in good faith to rebuild should not be revictimized after they have properly relied upon FEMA's determination that they were qualified for the assistance that they did receive.

This bill, H.R. 539, is going to clarify that if FEMA makes an error, and there is no evidence of fraud, then the victim will not be revictimized. Their debt is automatically viewed as a hardship, and it is waived.

In addition, the bill would also require FEMA to report back to Congress, to us, on its error rates and tell us what they are doing to be more accurate.

Last Congress, this bill passed on the House floor and had bipartisan support. This Congress, the bill now has a companion version in the Senate, and I hope that we can see this legislation enacted into law this year and truly help disaster victims not only in my district but also across the Nation.

Madam Speaker, I encourage support for this bill. It is a good bill, and people don't need to be revictimized.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 539.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1330

EXPEDITED DELIVERY OF AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 468) to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit the use of incentive payments to expedite certain fed-

erally financed airport development projects.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 468

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Expedited Delivery of Airport Infrastructure Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. ALLOWABLE COST STANDARDS FOR AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 47110(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "(1) if the cost necessarily" and inserting "(1)(A) if the cost necessarily";

(2) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting "; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) if the cost is an incentive payment incurred in carrying out the project described in subparagraph (A) that is to be provided to a contractor upon early completion of a project, if—

"(i) such payment does not exceed the lesser of 5 percent of the initial construction contract amount or \$1,000,000;

"(ii) the level of contractor's control of, or access to, the worksite necessary to shorten the duration of the project does not negatively impact the operation of the airport;

"(iii) the contract specifies application of the incentive structure in the event of unforeseeable, non-weather delays beyond the control of the contractor;

"(iv) nothing in any agreement with the contractor prevents the airport operator from retaining responsibility for the safety, efficiency, and capacity of the airport during the execution of the grant agreement; and

"(v) the Secretary determines that the use of an incentive payment is likely to increase airport capacity or efficiency or result in cost savings as a result of shortening the project's duration;"

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 47110(e)(7) of title 49, United States Code, is amended in the heading by striking "PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AIRPORTS" and inserting "PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AIRPORTS".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 468.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 468, the Expedited Delivery of Airport Infrastructure Act of 2021. Introduced by the committee's ranking member, SAM GRAVES, the bill incentivizes the early completion of airport projects funded by the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program.

As the global pandemic begins to subside and the number of vaccinated

Americans has steadily grown, the number of passengers traveling by air has dramatically increased. In fact, last month, the Transportation Security Administration recorded the highest number of daily passengers screened at U.S. airports since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, forcing airports to find ways to keep up with the growing passenger demand.

This legislation will help address this need by allowing airports to use their Airport Improvement Program funding to offer incentive payments to contractors for early completion of airport development projects.

Importantly, H.R. 468 includes conditions that ensure projects completed early do not have a negative impact on airport safety, efficiency, or capacity.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 468, which is the Expedited Delivery of Airport Infrastructure Act of 2021, and I want to thank Aviation Subcommittee Ranking Member GARRET GRAVES for cosponsoring the bill.

H.R. 468 provides airports with some commonsense tools to incentivize the early completion of airport projects using AIP funds, or Airport Improvement Program funds.

Under this bill, the use of AIP funds for incentive payments is left to the discretion of the airport operator, but the benefits of incentive payments are already well-known in the surface transportation sector.

This bill is going to allow airports to expedite the delivery of airport projects, take better advantage of short construction seasons, relieve operational disruptions that result from such projects and, obviously, save the taxpayer money.

This is a commonsense practice that is utilized in so many other Federal infrastructure projects and it does not increase Federal spending.

H.R. 468 is supported by the American Association of Airport Executives, the Airports Council International, and the Associated General Contractors of America.

This bill was introduced in Congress last year. It passed the House under suspension of the rules, and it was done by voice vote. I am hopeful that we can get this commonsense bill across the finish line this Congress. I would very much urge support of the legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), the ranking member of the Aviation Subcommittee.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman

DEFAZIO; the sponsor of the bill, the ranking member of the committee, SAM GRAVES; as well as Aviation Ranking Member RICK LARSEN of Washington State.

Madam Speaker, we need to be able to have the authority to make incentive payments. We have seen an extraordinary shift in aviation travel. In April of last year, there was a 95 percent reduction in airline passengers. We recently saw TSA screen the same number of passengers as before the pandemic.

The aviation demand is coming back with a vengeance. Our airports are crowded. Our airlines are packed. Our airplanes are packed.

What this allows the FAA to do is to provide incentive payments to expedite the completion of construction projects at airports. This is for safety. This is for additional capacity. This is going to ensure that the aviation industry, that our airport infrastructure can keep up with increased demand.

And as the ranking member said, this same expedited authority and incentive payments is allowed in other forms of infrastructure. So I want to thank the ranking member, SAM GRAVES, for bringing up this common-sense legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge its adoption.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, this is common-sense legislation. It doesn't cost the government any money. And the fact of the matter is, it is already being done in so many other areas of transportation projects.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 468.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE COORDINATION ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2016) to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to develop a study regarding streamlining and consolidating information collection and preliminary damage assessments, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2016

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act”.

SEC. 2. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1223 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-254) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1223. STUDY TO STREAMLINE AND CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

“(a) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in coordination with the Small Business Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Disaster Assistance Working Group of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and other appropriate agencies, shall—

“(1) conduct a study and develop a plan, consistent with law, under which the collection of information from disaster assistance applicants and grantees will be modified, streamlined, expedited, efficient, flexible, consolidated, and simplified to be less burdensome, duplicative, and time consuming for applicants and grantees; and

“(2) develop a plan for the regular collection and reporting of information on Federal disaster assistance awarded, including the establishment and maintenance of a website for presenting the information to the public.

“(b) PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in consultation with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, shall convene a working group on a regular basis with the Secretary of Labor, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the Secretary of Transportation, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, and other appropriate agencies as the Administrator considers necessary, to—

“(1) identify and describe the potential areas of duplication or fragmentation in preliminary damage assessments after disaster declarations;

“(2) determine the applicability of having one Federal agency make the assessments for all agencies; and

“(3) identify potential emerging technologies, such as unmanned aircraft systems, consistent with the requirements established in the FEMA Accountability, Modernization and Transparency Act of 2017 (42 U.S.C. 5121 note), to expedite the administration of preliminary damage assessments.

“(c) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit one comprehensive report that comprises the plans developed under subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2) and a report of the findings of the working group convened under subsection (b), which may include recommendations, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

“(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The comprehensive report developed under subsection (c) shall be made available to the public and posted on the website of the Federal Emergency Management Agency—

“(1) in pre-compressed, easily downloadable versions that are made available in all appropriate formats; and

“(2) in machine-readable format, if applicable.

“(e) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In preparing the comprehensive report, any publi-

cation, database, or web-based resource, and any information compiled by any government agency, nongovernmental organization, or other entity that is made available may be used.

“(f) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after submission of the comprehensive report, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or a designee, and a member of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, or a designee, shall brief, upon request, the appropriate congressional committees on the findings and any recommendations made in the comprehensive report.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 1223 in the table of contents of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-254) is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 1223. Study to streamline and consolidate information collection and preliminary damage assessments.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2016.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 2016, the Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act, introduced by Representatives GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN and PETERS. This legislation amends the Disaster Recovery Reform Act to help Federal agencies streamline and consolidate information collection and preliminary damage assessments following disasters.

When a major disaster occurs, Americans don't have time to wait for bureaucracy. Today, however, too many barriers stand between emergency response and Americans in crisis due to disaster.

Federal recovery assistance following major disasters is currently hampered by inefficient information collection and assessments conducted by multiple agencies.

This bill will remove information collection barriers that currently impede disaster aid. It creates a working group to identify duplicative assessments and propose their elimination.

Further, it would streamline Federal disaster recovery efforts by concluding that a single agency is sufficient to conduct damage assessments to account for the needs of disaster victims in 2021.

It is 2021, and we can and should be doing this smarter. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I rise in support of this bill, H.R. 2016, the Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act.

First, I want to thank Chairman DEFazio and Ranking Member GRAVES for bringing this bill to the floor, as well as Chairwoman NORTON. But I would also like to thank Representative SCOTT PETERS from California for cosponsoring this legislation.

In the last Congress, I joined with former colleague, MARK MEADOWS, in proposing this bill, and it was with great satisfaction that I see it come to the floor.

This is a simple bill that will establish a process to identify ways to streamline and consolidate the collection of certain disaster information in order to start the recovery process for individuals, families, and government devastated by natural disasters.

While FEMA is the lead Federal agency on disasters, there are multiple Federal agencies involved in every disaster response and recovery. This often leads to duplicative assessments and causes serious delays for the recovery process to begin.

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, and the seismic activity in Puerto Rico, we discovered how Federal agency after Federal agency, from FEMA, to HUD, to SBA, would require the same information from applicants, location, nature of damage, ownership, value of damage, estimated repair costs, among many others, in each of their preliminary assessments.

There was no process to share this information between the Federal agencies, which ultimately caused significant delays during both immediate relief and long-term recovery. At one point, these represented more than 70,000 assessments of individual work-sites that each needed to be completed by FEMA. Many of these assessments will be small parts of a larger project; sites costing under \$126,000, with responsibilities divided among municipalities and State agencies. Many of these were each, itself, a part of a larger process.

For example, repairs to individual pipes, storage tanks or pumps of an aqueduct system; and having to evaluate each site individually will slow down the whole project.

After many complaints from us and the local governments, FEMA, finally, in 2020, decided to begin consolidating these assessments for Puerto Rico to speed up the project delivery process across multiple Federal agencies.

I think it is critically important that Federal response agencies work together to minimize overlaps in their assessments and take advantage of the newest technologies.

Specifically, this bill will establish a Federal working group led by FEMA that will work with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and in consultation with

HUD, SBA, HHS, EDA, the Department of Labor, and OMB to identify ways to reduce duplication and modernize the Federal damage assessments process.

This is a good government bill that will help expedite all forms of disaster recovery across the Nation. As we have learned in Puerto Rico, it is not a matter of if there is a next disaster; it is about when it is going to happen, at least in our case.

So we must be ready to respond in a way that takes care of the immediate needs of those facing a disaster and of rebuilding with resiliency. That response needs to be efficient and effective, and with this legislation, we are going to help bring this about.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss GONZALEZ-COLON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE).

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my colleagues' bill, H.R. 2016, the Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act.

When I was Regional Secretary for HUD during Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Irma, I saw firsthand the bureaucratic web of red tape and inefficiencies that prevented getting help to those who needed it the most in a timely manner.

I spoke with several of you in this body on both sides of the aisle, who came to me fighting for your constituents, asking why it was taking so long to get aid. I felt and understood your frustration, but had to explain the long list of policies, procedures, and red tape that our regulations demanded. And, boy, I never felt like more of a bureaucrat than when I spoke with you.

It is a very difficult position for our folks to be in. These inefficiencies have serious costs.

This is a bipartisan piece of common-sense legislation to establish procedures to streamline and consolidate processes. When we allocate dollars, they need to get to those who are suffering the most. And the last thing we need is for them to be caught up in a bureaucracy of the government's making.

The faster FEMA is able to help get to communities of need, the faster they can recover. It is critically important that these agencies all work together.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

□ 1345

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss GONZALEZ-COLON. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), my friend and the ranking member of the Aviation Subcommittee.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, you have heard numerous

speakers talk about the bureaucracy that happens in the aftermath of a disaster, and we had legislation by Ranking Member SAM GRAVES trying to help to cut through that bureaucracy and not have our own Federal Government revictimize our disaster victims, who are citizens of this country.

In the aftermath of a disaster—which, being from south Louisiana, we experience, unfortunately, way too frequently—we have FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, that comes in; we have the Small Business Administration that comes in; we have the Department of Housing and Urban Development; we have the Department of Agriculture; and others that all offer different types of emergency aid or programs.

Madam Speaker, apparently, it appears that many of these agencies aren't aware that there has been this invention called the internet that connects everybody. Instead of coming in and forcing these disaster victims, who potentially have lost everything that they own, to come in and stop by numerous locations and fill out the same paperwork over and over again, they should come in and apply commonsense solutions that we have seen in the private sector for decades now, simply coming in, providing information once, being more efficient, truly providing service to these disaster victims, instead of revictimizing them.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico, my friend, for her leadership on this effort. I know, being from Puerto Rico and victimized by Hurricanes Irma, Maria, and others, this is an extraordinary issue for her constituents. I really do appreciate Congressman DEFazio, Ranking Member SAM GRAVES, and others who have partnered with her on this legislation, allowing it to go through. I urge adoption of this legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST).

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I want to first thank Chairman DEFazio and Ranking Member GRAVES for bringing this important bipartisan legislation to the floor.

H.R. 2016 would begin the critical process in working to consolidate the overlapping disaster response programs that delay disaster assistance for citizens in Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN's district, as well as in my district.

Mississippi has withstood flooding, hurricanes, and tornadoes over the last 2 years, and many of these response efforts are still underway today. This is no fault of the Federal agencies that are tasked with responding, but it is, instead, the product of overlapping programs that result in duplicative assessments that delay the recovery process.

This bill would establish a Federal working group to help identify a more streamlined approach to helping Americans respond to natural disasters.

This commonsense approach to solving delays in Federal disaster response would help expedite recovery and give Americans confidence in the Federal response.

I appreciate Congresswoman GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN's leadership on this issue, and I ask my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I just want to say, in closing, that H.R. 1262 is a good-government, bipartisan piece of legislation that will help streamline and improve disaster recovery efforts.

It is not just Puerto Rico. It is not just the Caribbean. From the western part of the United States to even the territories, we are all affected by natural disasters.

I want to thank, again, Representative SCOTT PETERS from California for co-leading this legislation, as well as Chairman DEFAZIO and Ranking Member GRAVES for recognizing the merits of this bill.

I urge support of H.R. 1262, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1262.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NOTICE TO AIRMEN IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1262) to establish a task force on improvements for certain notices to airmen, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1262

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Notice to Airmen Improvement Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. FAA TASK FORCE ON NOTAM IMPROVEMENT.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish a task force to be known as the FAA Task Force on NOTAM Improvement (in this section referred to as the "Task Force").

(b) **COMPOSITION.**—The Task Force shall consist of members appointed by the Admin-

istrator, including at least one member of each of the following:

- (1) Air carrier representatives.
- (2) Labor union representatives of airline pilots.
- (3) Labor union certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code, to represent FAA air traffic control specialists assigned to the U.S. NOTAM Office.
- (4) Labor union certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code, to represent FAA aeronautical information specialists.
- (5) General and business aviation representatives.
- (6) Aviation safety experts with knowledge of NOTAMs.
- (7) Human factors experts.

(c) **DUTIES.**—The duties of the Task Force shall include—

- (1) reviewing existing methods for presenting NOTAMs and flight operations information to pilots;
- (2) reviewing regulations and policies relating to NOTAMs, including their content and presentation to pilots;
- (3) evaluating and determining best practices to organize, prioritize, and present flight operations information in a manner that optimizes pilot review and retention of relevant information; and
- (4) providing recommendations for—
 - (A) improving the presentation of NOTAM information in a manner that prioritizes or highlights the most important information, and optimizes pilot review and retention of relevant information;
 - (B) ways to ensure that NOTAMs are complete, accurate, and contain the proper information;
 - (C) any best practices that the FAA should consider to improve the accuracy and understandability of NOTAMs and the display of flight operations information; and
 - (D) ways to work with air carriers, other airspace users, and aviation service providers to implement solutions that are aligned with the recommendations under this paragraph.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the establishment of the Task Force, the Task Force shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report detailing—

- (1) the results of the reviews and evaluations of the Task Force under paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (c);
- (2) the best practices identified and recommendations provided by the Task Force under subsection (c)(4);
- (3) any recommendations of the Task Force for additional regulatory or policy actions to improve the presentation of NOTAMs; and
- (4) the degree to which implementing the recommendations of the Task Force described under paragraph (2) will address National Transportation Safety Board Safety Recommendation A-18-024.

(e) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Task Force.

(f) **SUNSET.**—The Task Force shall terminate on the later of—

- (1) the date on which the Task Force submits the report required under subsection (d); or
- (2) the date that is 18 months after the date on which the Task Force is established under subsection (a).

(g) **AUTHORITY.**—The Administrator shall have the authority to carry out the recommendations of the Task Force detailed in the report required under subsection (d).

(h) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **FAA.**—The term "FAA" means the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) **NOTAM.**—The term "NOTAM" means notices to airmen required by international

or domestic regulation or law, as described in the order issued by the FAA on December 11, 2018, titled "Notices to Airmen (NOTAM)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1262, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 1262, the Notice to Airmen Improvement Act, introduced by Mr. STAUBER and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1262 will create a task force to review existing methods for presenting notices to airmen. Notices to airmen provide pilots with essential and real-time information regarding abnormalities or issues in the National Airspace System. For example, notices to airmen alert pilots to potential hazards in the airspace or at an airport, such as a closed runway or taxiway. While pilots are required to review all notices to airmen before flight, there has been concern about the lengthiness and completeness of the critical information contained in notices to airmen and how the information is displayed to, and organized for, pilots.

Under H.R. 1262, the task force will determine best practices for organizing and presenting flight operations information to pilots in the most optimal manner and make recommendations to improve the presentation of notices to airmen while ensuring their accuracy and completeness.

Recommendations from the task force could help prevent future aviation accidents and near-accidents. We saw, in July 2017, an Air Canada A320 almost land on top of five jetliners, with more than a thousand people on board, awaiting takeoff at San Francisco International Airport, before executing a go-around. The aircraft came as close as 60 feet above one of the planes on the ground.

Thankfully, there were no injuries, but this could have been catastrophic. The National Transportation Safety Board determined the probable cause of the incident was the pilots' misidentification of the taxiway for a runway, based in part on their ineffective review of notices to airmen before flight.

Notices to airmen and airwomen can and must be better for pilots. I expect the task force established under H.R. 1262 will lead to recommendations that will improve aviation safety.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. STAUBER from Minnesota for introducing this legislation and working together with Congressman DESAULNIER from California.

As Ms. NORTON, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia, noted, in 2017, at San Francisco International Airport, a NOTAM had been issued, a notice to airmen, which is usually sent to notify pilots about changes in airspace or construction conditions or changes of conditions at airports.

One was issued that indicated that a runway was under construction and an alternative runway was open. They had an Air Canada flight that came in while four occupied planes were on the taxiway, and there was a near miss where this Air Canada flight nearly landed on a taxiway that they mistook for the alternative runway. It would have caused widespread death in the event that those five planes ultimately would have collided.

The National Transportation Safety Board, as noted, did find that the lack of comprehension, or possibly even reviewing this NOTAM, was a primary cause.

This legislation creates a task force to look at better ways of informing, of connecting with pilots, to make sure that they have accurate information and that they actually read or are aware of these changing conditions which could, as in the 2017 incident, be the difference between life and death.

Again, I want to thank Chairman DEFAZIO. I want to thank Ranking Member SAM GRAVES. I want to thank Mr. STAUBER, the author of this bill, with his partner, Congressman DESAULNIER from California.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of my bipartisan legislation that improves the safety of air travel. I would also like to thank my colleague, Mr. DESAULNIER, for his support and leadership on this piece of legislation.

In 2020, the United States was home to 7 of the top 10 busiest airports in the world. This means that, as Americans, we have no room for error when it comes to aviation safety.

Although aviation is the safest form of travel, we must always strive to do better. This is why we must address the notice to airmen, or NOTAM, system. NOTAMs are critical, as they relay safety information to pilots that allow them to understand the possible hazards and conditions of airports and

runways before actually getting to the destination.

The current system simply is not working as well as it should. NOTAMs are often buried in lengthy reports, conflating important safety information with more common alerts. These inefficiencies have the potential to create life-threatening situations, as described earlier.

My legislation addresses these issues and creates a task force at the FAA with important input from safety experts and industry professionals to address what changes need to be made to NOTAMs to make air travel even safer than it already is.

Americans are more comfortable and excited to travel than they have been in over a year. Let's ensure that we support this sentiment and bolster the safety in our skies.

I was proud to work with my colleagues to get this reported out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee unanimously, both last Congress and this one.

The House also passed this legislation with strong bipartisan support during the 116th Congress, and I urge the same support this Congress of the Notice to Airmen Improvement Act.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST).

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, first, I would like to thank Chairman DEFAZIO and Ranking Member GRAVES for bringing this bipartisan legislation to the floor.

H.R. 1262 would create a task force to recommend reforms and improvements to the notice to airmen system, a crucial domestic and international flight safety notification to pilots that has become both inefficient and outdated over the years.

The current state of the notice to airmen system has the potential to create life-threatening situations for both pilots and their passengers. This reform would provide the needed steps to provide important safety information to our Nation's pilots in a timely and concise manner.

In the most recent FAA reauthorization, Congress made it a priority that the agency delivers a new and modernized notice to airmen system, yet we have seen few results to date. This legislation would make that priority a reality within 1 year from this bill's enactment.

I would like to thank Congressman STAUBER for his leadership on this issue and for prioritizing aviation safety within this bill.

□ 1400

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to say that the United States has the

safest aviation system in the world, and air travel is the safest way to travel.

This bipartisan legislation by Congressmen STAUBER and DESAULNIER ensures that we maintain that level of safety for air passengers in the future. I think it is a great bipartisan piece of legislation. I appreciate those two gentlemen working on this together. I urge adoption of the legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1262, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WEST LOS ANGELES VA CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 711) An Act to amend the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 to authorize the use of certain funds received pursuant to leases entered into under such Act, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 5. INCLUSION OF ASSESSMENT OF REVENUE EXPENDITURES AND DIRECT BENEFITS TO VETERANS IN ANNUAL REPORT.

Section 2(j)(2) of the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-226; 130 Stat. 929) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph (B):

“(B) an assessment of—

“(i) the manner in which such revenue is expended; and

“(ii) the direct benefits such expenditures provide to veterans; and”.

Mr. TAKANO (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS AND FAMILY INFORMATION ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2093) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make all fact sheets of the Department of Veterans Affairs available in English, Spanish, and Tagalog, and other commonly spoken languages, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2093

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans and Family Information Act”.

SEC. 2. FACT SHEETS.

(a) **LANGUAGES.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make available versions of all fact sheets of the Department of Veterans Affairs in—

- (1) English;
- (2) Spanish;
- (3) Tagalog; and

(4) each of the 10 most commonly spoken languages, other than English, in the United States that are not otherwise covered by paragraphs (2) and (3).

(b) **WEBSITE.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish and maintain a publicly available website of the Department of Veterans Affairs that contains links to all fact sheets of the Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans Health Administration, and of the National Cemetery Administration. The website shall be accessible by a clearly labeled hyperlink on the homepage of the Department.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit a report to Congress regarding fact sheets described in subsection (a) and details of the Language Access Plan of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The report shall include the following:

- (1) What the Secretary determines constitutes a fact sheet of the Department for purposes of this Act.
- (2) How such fact sheets are utilized and distributed other than on and through the website of the Department.
- (3) How such Language Access Plan is communicated to veterans, family members of veterans, and caregivers.
- (4) The roles and responsibilities of patient advocates in the coordination of care for veterans with limited English proficiency, family members of such veterans, and caregivers.
- (5) Other demographic information that the Secretary determines appropriate regarding veterans with limited English proficiency.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to

insert extraneous material on H.R. 2093.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, since 2001 the foreign-born share of the veteran population has steadily risen. Immigrants have served in the Armed Forces since the very beginning of our Nation, and they today make up 600,000 veterans. 1.9 million veterans are the U.S.-born children of immigrants. Together, the 2.5 million veterans of immigrant origin, by birth or parentage, account for 13 percent of all veterans living today.

Certain nationals of countries in free association with the United States—the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau—are eligible to serve the United States, and they do in numbers much larger than their counterparts stateside.

Half a million veterans live in Puerto Rico. There are 6,000 regular Philippine Scouts still alive and 15,000 U.S. veterans who live in the Philippines, half of whom rely on the VA clinic in Manila for their service-connected care.

Two-thirds of the veteran cohorts I just mentioned do not speak English at home. Many of them are aging and have to rely more and more on their families for care and to manage health decisions.

VA has scarce availability of veteran-facing materials in other languages, both online and in paper. Facilities are, for the most part, on their own to translate material that best serves their patients.

This extra burden was made clear to me during committee trips to Puerto Rico, where we heard from staff about the arduous work it took to have to translate everything from administrative staff training materials to hurricane brochures. Everything sent from VA Central Office in Washington, D.C., to Puerto Rico had to be redone so it could be usable and accessible to veterans and the staff who serve them.

The VA should be fully accessible to all veterans who need it, and that includes language accessibility. Mr. JEFFRIES’ bill, H.R. 2093, the Veterans and Family Information Act, would require VA to do what it should have been doing for years, make its veteran-facing fact sheets and websites available in languages veterans and their families speak; specifically, the languages of Spanish, Tagalog, and the other top 10 spoken languages in the United States. It would also require VA to create a language access plan for the VA enterprise.

Now, this is a long overdue correction of VA’s posture. If this pandemic has taught us anything, it is that clearly communicated public health information from our healthcare institutions is essential. VA must ensure that language proficiency is never a barrier to a veteran’s care.

I therefore ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Veterans and Family Information Act.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2093, the Veterans and Family Information Act. This bill would require VA to make fact sheets available in multiple languages, including English, Spanish, and Tagalog.

I appreciate Congressman JEFFRIES’ introduction of this legislation, and I am glad to support it today. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), my good friend, the chairman of the Democratic Caucus and author of H.R. 2093.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend and classmate, Chairman TAKANO, for his tremendous leadership as well as the leadership of the ranking member and all of the distinguished members of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2093, the Veterans and Family Information Act, a bipartisan bill that will serve those who have served our Nation with distinction. This common-sense legislation would improve non-English language accessibility for veterans, their families, and caregivers.

The Veterans Benefits Administration provides critical information to all veterans about their benefits that have been hard earned, including service-connected disability benefits, home loans, vocational rehabilitation, employment information, and how to access assistance for trauma.

For veterans of limited English proficiency, there is no guarantee that this critical information is made available in their primary language, thereby creating barriers for them and for their families.

As Chairman TAKANO indicated, there are over 500,000 foreign-born veterans that live in the United States, and additionally 1.9 million veterans who are the U.S.-born children of foreign-born parents.

Not only are our veterans increasingly diverse in terms of country of origin, but tens of thousands of veterans have self-identified to the VA that they speak English less than well.

In the most recent survey conducted, the VA also found that minorities, people of color, and language minorities comprise approximately 24 percent of the total veteran population in the United States.

Every single veteran deserves consistent, clear, and equal access to any and all information that the VA offers, regardless of their English proficiency. They have all served this country well.

The Veterans and Family Information Act would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to make versions of

all of its fact sheets available in the 10 most commonly spoken languages other than English in the United States, including Spanish and Tagalog.

I would like to thank the lead cosponsor of this bill, Representative YOUNG KIM, for her extraordinary leadership and partnership in this effort, as well as, again, the chair, ranking member, and all of the distinguished members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 2093.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2093, the Veterans and Family Information Act. This is the legislation I introduced with my colleague, Representative JEFFRIES.

This bipartisan bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to make versions of all fact sheets available in the 10 most commonly spoken languages other than English in the United States, including Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, and Korean.

My district is home to more than 27,000 veterans from diverse backgrounds who faithfully served in the United States military, including my own sister, brother-in-law, and my husband, too. With an increasingly diverse population of veterans across the country, and with United States veterans residing in the Philippines and in Puerto Rico, this bill ensures that our veterans and their caretakers whose first languages are not English are aware of and understand the VA's benefits.

I want to thank Representative JEFFRIES for working with me to improve language availability and accessibility at the VA. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 2093.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I am very, very pleased to recommend to all of my colleagues to vote "yes." This issue affects my own constituency where I know that we have veterans that have caregivers that may only speak, say, the language of Spanish, and so I am very convinced that this legislation will benefit all of our country, but especially my own district.

It is with that spirit that I recommend that we pass this important piece of legislation. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2093.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1415

EQUAL ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION FOR VETERANS ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 239) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 239

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act".

SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON COPAYMENTS FOR CONTRACEPTION.

Section 1722A(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "to pay" and all that follows through the period and inserting "to pay—"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

"(A) an amount in excess of the cost to the Secretary for medication described in paragraph (1); or

"(B) an amount for any contraceptive item for which coverage under health insurance coverage is required without the imposition of any cost-sharing requirement pursuant to section 2713(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-13(a)(4))."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 239.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, contraception access is a crucial element of preventative healthcare and reduces the likelihood that a woman will live in poverty. Copay-free access to contraception is covered under every insurance program in this country, except at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act, would eliminate copays on contraceptive items at the Department of Veterans Affairs. I thank Congresswoman BROWNLEY for introducing this bill and for her efforts as chair of the Subcommittee on Health and the Women Veterans Task Force.

Contraception is already widely available at VA, and veterans enrolled

at VA can obtain oral contraceptives, shots, skin patches, vaginal rings, and long-acting reversible contraceptives, such as implants or intrauterine devices. In addition, the VA pharmacy dispenses over-the-counter contraceptives, including condoms and emergency contraception.

Even a small copay can be insurmountable for a veteran struggling to make ends meet. Eliminating copays ensures parity with both Federal insurers and private insurers, as mandated under the Affordable Care Act. Most of all, it eliminates an unnecessary financial burden on our veterans.

Furthermore, we know also that every tax dollar spent on family planning, such as contraception, ultimately saves seven times that amount.

Passing this bill is an essential element of both meeting the health and economic well-being of our Nation's veterans.

This legislation has the support of the VA, broad VSO support, and passed on suspension last Congress.

Again, I thank Chairwoman JULIA BROWNLEY for her leadership on this issue, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 239.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act.

The bill would prohibit the VA from charging copayments to veterans for contraception.

Women are volunteering to serve our country in uniform in record numbers. When they separate from the service, they are seeking care from the VA in record numbers as well. Ensuring that those women receive the recognition, respect, and welcome they are owed is one of our highest priorities.

This bill would further that goal. I am glad to support it here today.

Copayments have been prohibited for contraception in the private sector for many years. This bill would bring the VA healthcare system in line with that precedent.

This bill passed the committee last year with unanimous, bipartisan support. One of those supporters was the former Republican leader of this committee, Dr. ROE. Dr. ROE, who is an OB/GYN, has decades of experience with women's health and reproductive care. Like me, he is also a steadfast defender of pro-life principles.

This bill also passed the House last Congress by voice vote. I hope that it can do so again this Congress.

The Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act was introduced by Congresswoman BROWNLEY. I thank her for her continued efforts on behalf of women veterans and for introducing the bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in voting for this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY), my good friend, the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Health, and also the author of this important legislation.

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act, my bill to ensure that veterans have access to contraception coverage without any copay.

I thank the chairman for working with me to advance this legislation.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, women using civilian health insurance may access basic contraceptive services, like the pill or an IUD, without any copay. Active Duty servicemembers can also receive contraceptive care without any copay.

However, women veterans who receive healthcare through the VA do not have access to the same benefit.

Clearly, we need to fix this inequity. The benefits of contraception are widely recognized.

Choosing when, or if, to have a family is essential to women's health and to their economic security.

Today, there are two million women veterans living in the United States, and women comprise the fastest growing subpopulation within the military and veteran populations; yet many of their health needs go unaddressed in a VA system that has not evolved to equitably serve a rapidly changing population.

As chairwoman of the Women Veterans Task Force and chair of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health, I have worked to identify disparities in healthcare for women veterans and, where necessary, introduce, advocate for, and pass legislation that eliminates these gaps.

Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country. It is past time that we ensure that they get the equitable healthcare they have earned and deserve.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 239.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Ranking Member BOST for pointing out that the previous ranking member and previous chairman of this committee, an OB/GYN, Representative ROE, stood in firm support of this legislation. I know him to also be someone of very firm pro-life convictions. I am very proud of the bipartisan support that has gathered around Ms. BROWNLEY's legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 239.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

HOMELESS VETERANS CREDIT REPAIR, ENHANCEMENT, AND DEBT IMPROVEMENT FOR TOMORROW ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1257) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the effect of financial and credit counseling for homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1257

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Homeless Veterans Credit Repair, Enhancement, and Debt Improvement for Tomorrow Act" or the "Homeless Veterans CREDIT Act".

SEC. 2. STUDY ON FINANCIAL AND CREDIT COUNSELING.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a comprehensive study on—

(1) the use of and variation of financial and credit counseling services available for homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability;

(2) barriers to accessing financial and credit counseling for such veterans; and

(3) the ability to evaluate and assess the potential effects of financial and credit counseling for such veterans with respect to housing, employment, income, and other outcomes the Secretary determines appropriate.

(b) METHODOLOGY.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) survey—

(A) homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability who are enrolled in the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program;

(B) such veterans who do not seek or receive the care or services under such program or a similar program;

(C) grantees of the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program;

(D) financial and credit counselors; and

(E) persons who are subject matter experts regarding the use of financial and credit counseling services that the Secretary determines appropriate; and

(2) administer the survey to a representative sample of homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability in areas with high veteran homelessness.

(c) USE AND VARIATION OF SERVICES.—In conducting the study under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall—

(1) use data from the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program and other data collected by the Department of Veterans Affairs, data collected by other departments or agencies of the Federal Govern-

ment, and data collected by nongovernmental entities to compare the use of and variation of financial and credit counseling services available for homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability and such use and variation for other individuals; and

(2) assess such services made available through the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program, including with respect to the types, modes of delivery, duration, consistency, and quality, of such services.

(d) BARRIERS TO COUNSELING.—In conducting the study under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall conduct research on the effects of the following perceived barriers to financial and credit counseling for homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability surveyed in the study:

(1) The cost of financial and credit counseling services.

(2) The perceived stigma associated with seeking financial and credit counseling assistance.

(3) The effect of driving distance or availability of other forms of transportation to the nearest facility that received a grant under the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program.

(4) The availability of child care.

(5) The comprehension of eligibility requirements for, and the scope of services available under, the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program.

(6) The effectiveness of outreach for the services available to such veterans under the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program.

(7) The location and operating hours of facilities that provide services to such veterans under the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program.

(8) The COVID-19 pandemic and other health related issues.

(9) Such other significant barriers as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(e) EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS OF COUNSELING.—

(1) EFFECTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a)(3), the Secretary shall conduct research on the ability to evaluate and assess the potential effects of financial and credit counseling services on homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability with respect to the following:

(A) The effects of such services on employment by comparing the veterans who received such services and the veterans who did not receive such services.

(B) The effects of such services on housing status by comparing the veterans who received such services and the veterans who did not receive such services.

(C) The effects of such services on income by comparing the veterans who received such services and the veterans who did not receive such services.

(D) The effects of such services on credit score by comparing the veterans who received such services and the veterans who did not receive such services.

(E) The effects of such services on other outcomes the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) DATA AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) determine the relevant data that is available to the Secretary and determine the confidence of the Secretary with respect to accessing any additional data the Secretary may require; and

(B) provide recommendations regarding the optimal research or evaluation design that would generate the greatest insights and value.

(f) DISCHARGE BY CONTRACT.—The Secretary may seek to enter into a contract with a qualified independent entity or organization to carry out the study and research required under this section, including such an entity or organization that is able to access credit scores, data maintained by the Internal Revenue Service, and other data beneficial to studying income.

(g) MANDATORY REVIEW OF DATA BY CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that the head of each element of the Department of Veterans Affairs specified in paragraph (2) reviews the results of the study conducted under subsection (a). The head of each such element shall submit to the Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management the findings of the head with respect to the study, including recommendations regarding what data the Secretary should collect from grantees under the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program.

(2) SPECIFIED ELEMENTS.—The elements of the Department of Veterans Affairs specified in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans established under section 2066 of title 38, United States Code.

(B) The Advisory Committee on Women Veterans established under section 542 of title 38, United States Code.

(C) The Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans established under section 544 of title 38, United States Code.

(D) The Homeless Programs Office of the Veterans Health Administration.

(E) The Office of Tribal Government Relations of the Department.

(h) REPORTS.—

(1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress an interim report on the study under subsection (a).

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 30 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the study under subsection (a). The report shall include—

(A) the findings of the head of each element of the Department specified under subsection (g)(2); and

(B) recommendations for such administrative and legislative action as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(i) DEFINITION.—In this section:

(1) The term “homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability” means veterans who are homeless (as that term is defined in subsection (a) or (b) of section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302)).

(2) The term “Supportive Services for Veterans Families program” means the program established pursuant to section 2044 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) In section 1786(d), as added by section 3006 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-315), by striking paragraph (3).

(2) In section 3673(f), as added by section 1023 of such Act, by striking paragraph (3).

(b) JOHNNY ISAKSON AND DAVID P. ROE, M.D. VETERANS HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2020.—The Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-315) is amended as follows:

(1) In section 3010—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “Subject to the availability of appropriations for such purpose, the Secretary”; and

(B) by striking subsection (h).

(2) In section 4201(a), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) USE OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that paragraph (1) is carried out in accordance with established procedures for reprogrammings or transfers, including with respect to presenting a request for a reprogramming of funds.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 1257, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, credit and financial counseling services remain a top 10 unmet need for veterans experiencing or who are at risk of homelessness.

This bill directs the VA to study the efficacy and barriers to credit and financial counseling for homeless and unstably housed veterans, and to provide recommendations for improvements to these services.

Under the Homeless Veterans CREDIT Act, the Secretary will work with outside organizations to review these barriers, and submit to Congress concrete steps we can take to expand credit access to veterans in need.

H.R. 1257, as amended, has the support of VA and key veteran service organizations, like the VFW, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the IAVA.

Also included in this legislation are various oversight improvements to existing law that our committee has worked on with the House Appropriations Committee, and I thank my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for their hard work. I therefore, ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1257, as amended.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1257, as amended, the Homeless Veterans Credit Repair, Enhancement, and Debt Improvement for Tomorrow—or CREDIT—Act.

This bill would direct the VA to study the effects of financial and credit counseling for homeless veterans.

COVID-19 has impacted our economy and our lives in many ways.

The most recent Department of Housing and Urban Development

Point-in-Time—or the PIT—count found that, on a single night in January of 2020, an estimated 37,252 veterans were homeless.

We must do everything we can to help eliminate veteran homelessness and prevent those who have worn the uniform of our country from having to worry about where they will lay their head at night.

This bill, which I am proud to support, would direct the VA to conduct a comprehensive study on the financial and credit counseling services for homeless veterans.

This study would use data from the Supportive Services for Veterans Families—or the SSVF—program to look at barriers that homeless veterans are facing in relation to financial counseling services.

I thank Congressman PALLONE for his hard work on crafting this bill and for his continued support of our Nation's veterans.

This bill, as amended, also includes some technical changes to the omnibus bill that was signed into law earlier this year that were requested by the Committee on Appropriations.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), my good friend, the author of this critical piece of legislation, and also the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, my friend from California, for moving this bill through the committee as quickly as he did.

I rise today in support of the bill, H.R. 1257, the Homeless Veterans Credit Repair, Enhancement, and Debt Improvement for Tomorrow Act.

We know that veterans' homelessness continues to be a blight on our Nation. Congress and advocates from across the country have worked hard to nearly halve the homeless veteran population in the past decade.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic jeopardized this progress by negatively impacting the credit and financial stability of our Nation's veterans.

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Now is the time to redouble our efforts and do everything we can to ensure stable housing for veterans. We must start by examining the underlying causes of veteran homelessness in our Nation.

The VA has declared credit and financial counseling services a top 10 unmet need for our homeless veterans. My bill directs the Secretary of the VA to conduct a study of the credit and financial counseling services available to homeless veterans and veterans facing housing instability. The study will assess current services available to veterans and the barriers they face in utilizing them, including the COVID-19 pandemic and other health challenges.

During a time of such economic uncertainty, we must look out for our

most vulnerable communities, including homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability. We have a responsibility to help those who served in uniform and stood ready to make the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

The CREDIT Act will identify the credit and financial counseling services needed to help our veterans avoid financial pitfalls and make informed decisions about their future.

Madam Speaker, again, I thank Chairman TAKANO for his partnership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan legislation. Together, we can improve veterans' financial literacy to build a better life for themselves after they complete their service to our country.

Madam Speaker, I also thank my staff member, Jake Freed, who basically came up with this idea, after talking to various veterans groups, and put this together.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, we know that preventing homelessness is especially critical as we try to emerge out of this pandemic.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support Chairman PALLONE's bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1257, the Homeless Veterans Credit Act, and would like my good friend Chairman PALLONE for his work to bring this bill to the floor.

The freedom and luxuries that we are afforded on a daily basis are made possible by the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform. It is unthinkable that, after returning home from serving our country, veterans are often faced with several challenges including a lack of accessibility to quality and affordable housing. The state of Texas is home to the second largest population of veterans in the United States, and veterans homelessness is becoming an increasingly prevalent issue in our communities.

That is why I am proud to support the Homeless Veterans Credit Act. This bill will direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the effectiveness of financial and credit counseling services currently available to homeless veterans and how those services can be improved so these veterans can move a step closer to securing stable housing, employment and income. Such studies are critical for us as legislators to determine the efficiency of the institutions, programs, and funding levels in place to assist veterans.

As Chair of the Congressional Homeless-ness Caucus, I remain committed to advocating on behalf of veterans experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. This pandemic has brought to light the stark inequities in access to housing for veterans, but I am confident that this bill will set the stage for transformative efforts to reform care for those in need.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to voting in favor of this bipartisan, commonsense legislation and would urge my colleagues to do the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1257, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the effect of financial and credit counseling for homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VA POLICE IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2429) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the staffing, transparency, and accountability of the law enforcement operations of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2429

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "VA Police Improvement and Accountability Act".

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO TRANSPARENCY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—Section 902 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(e)(1) The Secretary shall publish on the internet website of each facility of the Department the following information with respect to the facility:

"(A) Summaries and statistics covering the previous five-year period regarding—

"(i) arrests made by and tickets issued by Department police officers;

"(ii) prosecutions, ticketing, and other actions relating to such arrests;

"(iii) the use of force and weapons discharge by Department police officers; and

"(iv) complaints, investigations, and disciplinary actions regarding Department police officers.

"(B) Contact information for employees of the Department and the public to directly contact the police force of the facility, including for an individual (or the representative, attorney, or authorized agent of the individual) to request information regarding the arrest, ticketing, detainment, use of force, or other police matters pertaining to that individual.

"(2) The Secretary shall ensure that each police force of a facility of the Department is able to provide to an individual who contacts the police force pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) the information described in such paragraph."

(b) USE OF BODY WORN CAMERAS BY DEPARTMENT POLICE OFFICERS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Subsection (a) of such section 902 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) Beginning not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall require Department police officers to use cameras worn on the individual police officer's person that record and store audio and video (commonly known as 'body worn cameras')."

(2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue, and make publicly available, guidance on the use of body worn cameras by Department police officers pursuant to section 902(a)(3) of title 38, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1).

(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall issue the guidance under paragraph (2) in consultation with veterans service organizations, civil rights organizations, law enforcement organizations, law enforcement accreditation organizations, privacy rights organizations, and other relevant organizations or experts.

(c) DATA AND REPORTING ON POLICE INCIDENTS.—Section 902 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(f) POLICE INCIDENTS.—(1)(A) The Secretary shall track and analyze the following information regarding the police force of the Department:

"(i) Arrests made by and tickets issued by Department police officers.

"(ii) Prosecutions, ticketing, and other actions relating to such arrests.

"(iii) The use of force and weapons discharge.

"(iv) Complaints, investigations, and disciplinary actions.

"(B) The Secretary shall carry out subparagraph (A) by implementing one or more Department-wide data systems.

"(2)(A) Beginning not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that each incident described in subparagraph (C) is promptly reported to the Assistant Secretary with responsibility for operations, preparedness, security, and law enforcement functions.

"(B) The Assistant Secretary shall, in a timely manner—

"(i) review each incident described in subparagraph (C)(i) that is reported under subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) investigate each incident described in subparagraph (C)(ii) that is reported under subparagraph (A).

"(C) An incident described in this subparagraph is either of the following:

"(i) An incident, including an allegation, of the use of force by a Department police officer.

"(ii) An incident, including an allegation, of the use of force by a Department police officer that results in any person receiving medical attention."

(d) PLAN ON POLICE STAFFING.—The Secretary shall develop a plan that establishes minimum standards for police staffing at each facility of the Department, including with respect to—

(1) the number of Department police officers assigned to each facility; and

(2) the pay grades for such officers.

(e) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the implementation of this section and the amendments made by this section. The report shall include the following:

(1) With respect to the staffing needs of the Department police force—

(A) identification of the amount of turnover among Department police officers;

(B) how the compensation for Department police officers affects such turnover;

(C) a comparison of such compensation with the compensation provided to specialty police units, such as police units at medical facilities and other police units in the same locality pay area; and

(D) the plan developed under subsection (d), including—

(i) estimates on the costs to carry out the plan; and

(ii) any recommendations for legislative actions required to carry out the plan.

(2) With respect to body worn cameras, a review of the implementation and use of body worn cameras by Department police officers, including under pilot programs carried out by the Secretary during the five-year period preceding the date of the report.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “body worn camera” means a camera worn on an individual police officer’s person that records and stores audio and video.

(2) The term “Department police officer” means an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs described in section 902(a) of title 38, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2429.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 2429, the VA Police Improvement and Accountability Act, introduced by former Committee on Veterans’ Affairs member Representative RICE from New York.

This bipartisan legislation cosponsored by Representative RADEWAGEN would improve the transparency and accountability of the VA police. Specifically, the legislation would require the VA police to publish online information about arrests and use of force, as well as establish a consistent way for the public to obtain more detailed information about those incidents.

Importantly, this bill would also require VA to have its police use body-worn cameras, publish guidance on the use of such cameras, improve tracking and analysis of arrests and other police actions, and develop a staffing plan that adequately supports every VA facility’s needs. Together, these improvements will build accountability and trust between the VA police and anyone who walks through VA facility doors across the country.

H.R. 2429 was reported favorably by the committee, and I ask my col-

leagues to join me in supporting the VA Police Improvement and Accountability Act.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2429, the VA Police Improvement and Accountability Act.

This bill represents months of bipartisan work by the committee. I thank my colleagues for their efforts.

This bill would increase transparency and accountability in the VA police force by requiring each officer to wear a body-worn camera. It would also require VA to make police statistics public and available and report on police actions, including arrests and use of force.

Madam Speaker, 2 years ago, the VA began modernizing its police force. This legislation would support the VA’s ongoing efforts.

Veterans deserve safe environments in which to seek the care and benefits they have earned. I believe this legislation and the VA work will help provide those safe environments.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Miss RICE), my good friend, a former member of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, and the lead Democratic cosponsor.

Miss RICE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan bill, the VA Police Improvement and Accountability Act, H.R. 2429. This bill takes important steps to strengthen oversight and accountability for VA police and law enforcement operations.

A number of shortcomings with VA’s law enforcement operations were identified in a hearing held by the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs last Congress. Inadequate policing procedures and a lack of true oversight for the Department’s police force were two of the pressing issues raised at the hearing.

Challenges with management and oversight of VA police were also revealed in subsequent reports issued by the VA Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office. These challenges include insufficient officer staffing, inappropriate conduct, and other concerning issues at VA facilities across the country.

On Long Island, I have worked with one of my constituents who was horribly mistreated by the Northport VA police. Our veterans deserve much better from an agency that is always supposed to be on their side.

My bill aims to address these pressing issues with the VA police by requiring the VA police to implement the use of body cameras, improve data collection and reporting on police incidents at VA facilities, and enact other important measures to strengthen oversight

and transparency for VA’s police program.

Madam Speaker, I thank my Republican co-lead, Representative RADEWAGEN, for joining me on this bill. I also thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member BOST for helping to bring H.R. 2429 to the floor today.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation to help us better serve and protect our Nation’s veterans.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the bill of the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE).

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2429.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VA FOIA REFORM ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2726) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a plan to reduce the backlog of requests for information made to the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2726

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “VA FOIA Reform Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. PLAN FOR REDUCTION OF BACKLOG OF FOIA REQUESTS.

(a) PLAN.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish and carry out a plan for the Secretary to meet, by not later than five years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the requirements of section 552 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to providing documents and information under such section within the timeframes required by such section. The plan shall include the following:

(1) Improving and acquiring technology, including with respect to searching email and other electronic information, and the timelines for such improvement, to ensure that the information technology of the Department of Veterans Affairs is capable of carrying out the plan.

(2) Identification of efficient procedures, policies, and systems of the Department that could be developed to allow employees of the Department responsible for replying to requests under such section 552 to search and review documents rather than other employees of the Department.

(3) A schedule for carrying out the plan, including key milestones and metrics.

(b) COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall request the Director of the Office of Government Information Services of the National Archives and Records Administration to conduct an assessment of the compliance by the Department of Veterans Affairs with section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on implementing subsections (a) and (b). The report shall include the following:

(A) The plan established under subsection (a).

(B) An analysis of the root causes of the backlog of FOIA requests.

(C) Recommendations with respect to any additional resources or legislative action the Secretary determines necessary for such implementation.

(2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—During the five-year period following the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate annual reports on—

(A) carrying out the plan under subsection (a), including any updates or changes made to the plan; and

(B) the compliance by the Department as described in subsection (b).

(3) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make publicly available on the internet website of the Department the reports under paragraphs (1) and (2) by not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary submits the reports to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(d) BACKLOG OF FOIA REQUESTS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “backlog of FOIA requests” means the number of requests, as reported by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Attorney General in the Annual FOIA Report, made by individuals to the Secretary pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code, for documents or information that the Secretary has not fulfilled or provided a response to the individual.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 2726.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 2726, the VA FOIA Reform Act of 2021, introduced by Representative GALLEG0, a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

This bipartisan legislation is cosponsored by Representative MURPHY from North Carolina and would modernize the Department of Veterans Affairs'

Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, process to help VA meet statutory requirements and improve efficiency.

The FOIA process is essential for ensuring a transparent and accountable VA by allowing the public insight into the workings of a Department that serves millions of veterans each year. However, an enduring backlog of open requests and out-of-date technology have made it difficult for the Department to provide timely access to requested information.

Madam Speaker, this bill would require VA to establish a plan in order to meet all statutory FOIA requirements, identify its technology needs, and carry out this plan within 5 years.

Veterans and their families, employees, and the public who have made FOIA requests at VA have been kept waiting for too long. I hope this bill puts VA on a path to providing FOIA information in a timely manner.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2726 was reported favorably by the committee, and I ask my colleagues to support the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2726, the VA FOIA Reform Act of 2021.

Madam Speaker, over the last few years, VA has worked hard to reduce the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, requests backlog. These efforts have achieved some success, but the VA still has a long way to go.

At the end of fiscal year 2020, VA reported 4,206 pending requests. This bill would require VA to carry out a plan to reduce the backlog and comply with existing FOIA requirements.

It would also require VA to report to Congress on a plan and the Department's work. This will help Congress oversee VA's efforts to reduce the FOIA backlog and provide additional resources that may be necessary.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the bipartisan work on this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to support it. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0), my good friend, author of H.R. 2726, and a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. GALLEG0. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 2726, the VA FOIA Reform Act.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chair TAKANO and Ranking Member BOST for bringing this bill to the floor and Representative MURPHY for co-leading this important legislation with me.

The bill is a simple, bipartisan measure to improve efficiency and transparency at the VA.

As we all know, transparency is critical in ensuring that the VA is serving our veterans as effectively as possible. Veterans, their caregivers, VSOs, and the public all deserve easy and timely

access to information about veteran care, VA performance, and other data when requested.

Unfortunately, VA currently has among the worst backlogs of Freedom of Information Act requests across Federal agencies. Among these backlogged requests are inquiries about VA performance and decisions, as well as requests from veterans for their own personal records.

My bill will ensure that the VA takes concrete steps to reduce its FOIA backlogs so that these veterans get answers. It also calls for the National Archives and Records Administration to review VA's FOIA process.

Finally, the bill requires the VA to analyze the root causes of its FOIA backlog and to identify technology needs and procedural improvements that will increase efficiency in responding to requests.

This straightforward bill is a commonsense step toward improving the flow of information from the VA to all the stakeholders it serves.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support it today, and I look forward to working to get it signed into law.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I would like to close by saying I urge all of my colleagues to support the VA FOIA Reform Act of 2021. We need to make sure that our veterans and their families get information that they have requested from the VA in a timely manner.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2726.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1445

CLARIFYING ROLE OF DOCTORS OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2545) to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2545

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ROLE OF DOCTORS OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF ROLE.—Section 7306 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) in paragraph (6), by striking “a Director of Podiatric Service.”;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (10) as paragraph (11); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following new paragraph:

“(10) A Podiatric Medical Director, who shall be a qualified doctor of podiatric medicine and who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary for Health for the operation of the Podiatric Service.”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “podiatric medicine,” after “doctors of medicine.”; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “and (8)” and inserting “(8), and (10)”.

(b) CLARIFICATION OF PAY GRADE.—Section 7404 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting “, podiatrists,” after “physicians”; and

(2) in subsection (b), in the first heading of the list following the colon, by striking “PODIATRIST” and inserting “PODIATRIST (DPM)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2545.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 2545 to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2545 is offered by former Veterans' Affairs Committee member, Dr. BRAD WENSTRUP. This legislation seeks to clarify a technical error affecting the Director of Podiatric Services which developed following the inclusion of Dr. WENSTRUP's VA Provider Equity Act in the MISSION Act.

The renaming of the position to Podiatric Medical Director will create equity by allowing this position holder to be paid on par with their peers rather than below, which is currently the case.

If VA is to recruit top talent, we must ensure VA is able to offer competitive salaries whenever possible, that is why I support this legislation and I hope my colleagues will too.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2545, a bill that would clar-

ify the role of podiatrists in the VA health system. Podiatrists are increasingly called upon to care for veterans in the VA medical facilities.

This bill would make a technical correction to current law to ensure that they are properly compensated for their important work.

This bill is sponsored by Dr. WENSTRUP. Dr. WENSTRUP is a veteran, a podiatrist, and a former member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I am grateful for his continued commitment to those who he serves.

Madam Speaker, I urge every Member of the Chamber to join me and Dr. WENSTRUP and the chairman in supporting this bill today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I encourage everyone to support this piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the legislation and join me in passing H.R. 2545, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2545.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

VA HOSPITALS ESTABLISHING LEADERSHIP PERFORMANCE ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 293) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish qualifications for the human resources positions within the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 293

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “VA Hospitals Establishing Leadership Performance Act”.

SEC. 2. QUALIFICATIONS FOR HUMAN RESOURCES POSITIONS WITHIN THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the

enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) establish qualifications for each human resources position within the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(2) establish standardized performance metrics for each such position; and

(3) submit to Congress a report containing the qualifications and standardized performance metrics established under paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the establishment of the qualifications and performance metrics under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate a report containing—

(1) a description of the implementation of such qualifications and performance metrics; and

(2) an assessment of the quality of such qualifications and performance metrics.

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 293.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 293, the VA Hospitals Establishing Leadership Performance Act, introduced by our committee's ranking member, Mr. BOST.

This bill would require VA to establish qualifications and performance metrics for human resources positions within the Veterans Health Administration. This legislation follows a 2017 Government Accountability Office report that found human capital process deficiencies, such as a lack of performance metrics for certain positions.

GAO concluded that these deficiencies negatively affected VA's ability to serve veterans. The legislation does not specify what metrics VA must use, but leaves that determination up to VA. Instituting these human resource management improvements at VA is a commonsense, good-government step.

H.R. 293 was favorably reported by the committee, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the VA Hospitals Establishing Leadership Performance Act.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 293, VA Hospitals Establishing Leadership Performance Act. I believe that a high-performing organization needs to have clear qualifications and metrics by which they can measure success. Without them, organizations lose their way.

That is why I am proud to have, once again, introduced the VA Hospital Establishing Leadership Performance Act. My bill would require VA to establish standardized qualifications and performance metrics for each human resource position within the Veterans Health Administration.

A few years ago, the committee found that certain HR professionals working in the VA healthcare system did not have the proper education or experience for the jobs that they held.

For example, one HR director at a medical center lacked both a college degree and relevant work experience when hired for the job. This bill would make sure that that does not happen again by requiring HR staff to be qualified and equipped to handle VA's complex human resources needs.

During the 115th Congress, this bill passed the House by a vote of 417-0. I hope that it, again, gains that type of support with this entire Chamber.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support my bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I have no further questions, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 293, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 293.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

SOLE LIABILITY FOR TRANSFERRED EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO FAILS TO COMPLETE A SERVICE AGREEMENT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 290) to amend title 38, United

States Code, to render an individual, who transfers certain educational assistance, to which the individual is entitled because of an agreement by such individual to serve in the Armed Forces, to a dependent of that individual, and who fails to complete such agreement, solely liable for the overpayment of such educational assistance, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 290

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SOLE LIABILITY FOR TRANSFERRED EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO FAILS TO COMPLETE A SERVICE AGREEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (i) of section 3319 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “In the event” and inserting “Subject to paragraph (2), in the event”; and

(B) by inserting “of this title” after “section 3685”;

(2) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “IN GENERAL” and inserting “SOLE LIABILITY”; and

(B) by inserting “for which the individual shall be solely liable to the United States for the amount of the overpayment for purposes of section 3685 of this title” before the period at the end; and

(3) in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “Subparagraph (A) shall not apply” and inserting “Neither the individual nor the dependent shall be liable to the United States for the amount of the overpayment for purposes of section 3685 of this title”; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting “of this title” after “section 3311(c)(4)”.

(b) REVERSION.—Effective October 1, 2024, such subsection (i) is amended to read as it read on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 290, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the eligibility for veterans to transfer their earned educational benefits is limited based on service time and commitments to additional service time. Recently, there have been a number of cases where DOD erroneously calculated servicemembers' time in service, allowing the servicemember to transfer a benefit when they should not have, as in the case of Russell Dotson.

In Mr. Dotson's case, he was told by the Navy that he was able to transfer his benefit to his daughter. Unfortunately, the Navy was 6 days off in its calculation. That led to his daughter's GI Bill-covered tuition at DePaul University being cut off. Now, she and her father, a veteran who served 22 years and was honored for saving two lives in Afghanistan, are left having to repay more than \$20,000.

As a result of these errors, the veteran and their dependent are saddled with a huge bill, that is overpayment, for the cost of erroneously billed educational costs. The debt levied on the dependent is costly and can ruin their credit before they enter the labor force, which could impact their housing and job opportunities.

H.R. 290, as amended, limits liabilities to ensure that there aren't surprise debts created by errors in paperwork. This legislation has been supported by VSOs such as the VFW, American Legion, and the Student Veterans of America.

Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member BOST for his work on this issue. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 290, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 290, as amended, to create a sole liability for GI Bill payments during transfer in certain cases. This bill would hold a servicemember liable should they transfer the GI Bill entitlement but fail to complete their service obligation.

The GI Bill is a fantastic benefit. The GI Bill has helped tens of thousands of veterans and their families obtain a higher education. Some servicemembers are eligible to transfer their GI Bill entitlement to a dependent. They can do this once they have completed 6 years of active service and agree to serve an additional 4 years.

Under my bill, if the servicemember begins to transfer the entitlement at the 6-year mark but fails to complete the additional 4 years of the required service, their dependent would not be held liable for overpayments. This would help dependents avoid unexpected VA debt for actions outside of their control. Some overpayments can total hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is only right that we ensure that they are assigned to the right person.

Madam Speaker, I thank our VSO partners, especially those at the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors for bringing this issue to my attention.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I just want to encourage all of my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 290, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 290, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1500

HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3642) to award a Congressional gold medal to the 369th Infantry Regiment, commonly known as the "Harlem Hellfighters", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service during World War I, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3642

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) When the United States officially entered World War I in April 1917, the Armed Forces were still segregated, even though African-American soldiers had served and distinguished themselves in every war since the Revolutionary War, and even the Colonial Wars preceding the American Revolution.

(2) After several years of advocacy and debate, in 1916 the State of New York authorized the recruitment of the 15th New York National Guard Regiment, which was called to Federal service on July 25, 1917, soon after arriving for training at Camp Whitman, New York.

(3) The 15th completed its basic military practice training at Camp Whitman, New York.

(4) To receive combat training, the 15th reported, on October 8, 1917, to Camp Wadsworth, in Spartanburg, South Carolina, where it experienced many incidents of racial discrimination.

(5) Consequently, the government agreed to remove the 15th from Camp Wadsworth, but, instead of receiving further training, the regiment began preparing for deployment to France in November.

(6) The 15th arrived in Saint Nazaire, France, on January 1, 1918, where it was redesignated the 369th Infantry Regiment

(7) Partly because many White soldiers within the American Expeditionary Forces (hereinafter, the "AEF") refused to perform combat duty with Black soldiers, members of the 369th were initially assigned manual labor tasks, such as loading and unloading supplies, and constructing roads and railroads.

(8) After receiving pressure from the 369th regimental commander about not having a combat mission, the AEF attached the 369th to the French Fourth Army.

(9) By mid-March of 1918, the 369th went to the Argonne Forest with the French 16th Division for training and soon entered the trenches.

(10) The 369th encountered its first German soldiers in combat in April, 1918.

(11) In May of 1918, Private Henry Johnson of the 369th received the French Croix de Guerre, with Palm, for extraordinary valor, becoming one of the first American soldiers to be awarded this honor.

(12) Johnson also belatedly received a Purple Heart, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, and in, 2015, was awarded the Medal of Honor.

(13) Throughout the remainder of the spring and into the summer the 369th served at Minacourt, in the Champagne-Marne Defensive, and during the Aisne-Marne Offensive in support of the French 161st Infantry Division.

(14) As summer turned to autumn, the 369th went on to participate in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, where it captured the important village of Sechault despite sustaining severe losses.

(15) On October 14, 1918, the 369th advanced to Alsace.

(16) On November 20, 1918, the 369th reached the banks of the Rhine River as part of the French Army of Occupation, the first Allied unit to do so.

(17) The 369th was relieved of its assignment with the French 161st Division in December, 1918, and elements of the regiment sailed for New York in late January and early February, 1919.

(18) The 369th Infantry Regiment received a parade up 5th Avenue in New York City on February 17, 1919, receiving applause and cheers from hundreds of thousands of onlookers.

(19) The 369th was demobilized on February 28, 1919.

(20) Over 170 individual members of the 369th received the Croix de Guerre, many were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, and the 369th was awarded a unit citation.

(21) It is generally believed that the 369th was dubbed the "Harlem Hellfighters" by German soldiers, who found the men to be incredibly determined and courageous in battle.

(22) The 369th was the first regiment of African Americans to deploy overseas during World War I and spent 191 days on the front line in World War I, more than any other American regimental sized unit.

(23) The 369th never lost a foot of ground nor had a man taken prisoner, despite suffering a high number of casualties.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to the 369th Infantry Regiment, commonly known as the "Harlem Hellfighters", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service during World War I.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall

strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the 369th Infantry Regiment, the "Harlem Hellfighters", the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it will be displayed as appropriate and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly at other locations associated with the Harlem Hellfighters.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the bronze medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALES.—The amounts received from the sale of duplicate medals under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

(c) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

The gold medal struck pursuant to this Act is a national medal for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 6. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the soldiers of the 369th Infantry Regiment were known to both their enemies and allies alike for their fierceness in battle and dedication to their country. They were called the Black Rattlers, the Men of Bronze, and Hollenkampfer, but they were best known as the Harlem Hellfighters.

The Harlem Hellfighters were one of the first African-American regiments

to serve with the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I. Over the course of the war, the Harlem Hellfighters spent more time than any other American unit in the frontline trenches and suffered 1,500 casualties—the most losses of any American unit.

In addition to facing the dangers of frontline trench warfare, the men of the Harlem Hellfighters endured racist, derogatory attacks from their White compatriots, many of whom refused to perform combat duty with African-American soldiers. This resulted in the Harlem Hellfighters being transferred to a French Army where, despite racist warnings from American Expeditionary Forces headquarters of the alleged inferior nature of African-American troops, the Harlem Hellfighters were treated as welcome reinforcements and equals.

Despite the racism and derogatory attacks from their fellow countrymen, the Harlem Hellfighters were steadfast in their devotion to their country. Some members considered their service to be a way to prove they deserved respect from their White compatriots. Even German propaganda targeting the Harlem Hellfighters highlighting the racism of a segregated U.S. military failed to diminish their resolve.

Yet, despite their considerable sacrifices and being awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French Army for their efforts, the Harlem Hellfighters continued to face considerable racism when they returned home after World War I. Their bravery and accomplishments were similarly ignored by the broader American public. But their legacy and memory has been kept alive in their hometown. The annual Harlem Hellfighters Parade in Harlem, New York, became a marker of African-American service to their Nation, and their service was frequently referenced as part of the civil rights campaign.

This bill directs the U.S. Mint to strike a Congressional Gold Medal honoring the Harlem Hellfighters for their service during World War I. The gold medal will be displayed at the Smithsonian Institution so that others may learn of the patriotism and courage displayed by the men of the 369th Infantry Regiment.

So, Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. SUOZZI for introducing this bill. I urge Members to vote “yes,” and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3642, a bill that awards a Congressional Gold Medal to the 369th Infantry Regiment commonly known as the Harlem Hellfighters. This gold medal is in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service during World War I.

I would like to thank Congressman SUOZZI and the numerous original cosponsors for getting this important bill to the floor today.

I have heard from constituents who had family members and I have heard

from folks from around the country about the importance of our recognizing this heroic group of—at that point—men. The 369th Infantry Regiment nicknamed the Harlem Hellfighters were the first African-American infantry unit to fight in World War I. They were also one of the most decorated.

This is extraordinary. They became one of the most feared units fighting for the Allies in World War I, and they were notorious for never yielding ground to their enemies. This is extraordinary.

Their name, Harlem Hellfighters, which was given to them by the Germans, is reflective of that reputation. That was a hard-won reputation that they had, and that name is synonymous with the fear that produced in our enemies. They fearlessly spent 191 consecutive days on the front lines, which was more time in combat than any other American unit during the Great War—during World War I.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not point out that at least 249 North Carolina-born African-American men served in this prestigious unit. These brave sons of Carolina fought valiantly just west of the Argonne Forest in defense of an outpost against a German raiding party. During this conflict, four North Carolinian Hellfighters were wounded, including Sergeant Henry Johnson, a native of Winston-Salem that I have the honor to represent.

Not only were these men fierce fighters, they were also instrumental in influencing art and culture, including introducing jazz to Europe, and for that the Europeans should be grateful. Their leader, James Reese Europe, directed their regimental band to international acclaim.

Madam Speaker, the Harlem Hellfighters of World War I deserve a Congressional Gold Medal as the highest recognition of national appreciation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I am grateful for the bipartisan nature of this bill and also bringing attention to the valiant soldiers who protected us during the Great War, especially this very special decorated unit of intense fighters but fantastic humans.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI) who is also the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, today we have the opportunity to begin to right a century-old wrong. I rise to support the creation of a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of the Harlem Hellfighters.

Thousands of Harlem Hellfighters were African-American soldiers who signed up to join the U.S. Army in World War I. Sadly, but predictably, White soldiers were unwilling to serve alongside Black soldiers, and these brave men were assigned to join the

French Army. But that didn't stop them.

The Harlem Hellfighters, wearing U.S. uniforms but issued weapons and helmets by the French, went on to face more combat time than any other regiment during World War I. No Harlem Hellfighter was captured as a prisoner of war, and they never gave up any ground.

The bravery, dedication, and sacrifices of the Harlem Hellfighters who served 191 days under near-constant enemy fire impacted the outcome of World War I, but instead of receiving a hero's welcome, they returned home to racism and race-fueled violence.

There were three dozen Hellfighters who came from my hometown of Glen Cove. In 2019 the family of Sergeant Leander Willett came to tell me about their father and grandfather. He had served in France and had been stabbed by a German bayonet and been the victim of mustard gas attacks, but never received a Purple Heart. He returned home and died in 1956 without ever being properly recognized and honored for his service to our country. He joined his fellow comrades who have been lost to history.

In November of 2019 we surprised the Willett family with a posthumous Purple Heart for Sergeant Willett for wounds received as a result of hostile actions in France on October 4, 1918.

I then approached my colleague ADRIANO ESPAILLAT, who represents Harlem, and the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, JOYCE BEATTY, about collaborating together to attain a Congressional Gold Medal. They both immediately and enthusiastically agreed. We went on to obtain 310 bipartisan cosponsors of this bill and expect strong support today.

I would like to especially thank Chairwoman WATERS for her and the Financial Services Committee's support. On behalf of the Willett family, the families of dozens of Harlem Hellfighters from my hometown, and a grateful Nation, we say thank you to this body for putting aside partisanship and helping to right a century-old harm. It is never too late to do the right thing.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT).

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman SUOZZI for his leadership on this bill and for working with me on this fight for justice. I also want to thank Chairwoman WATERS and Ranking Member MCHENRY for working with us to get this bill out of the committee.

Today, I rise in support of this bill to honor a group of brave men who have yet to receive their due commendation: the Harlem Hellfighters.

This distinguished group of African-American and Puerto Rican men were patriots of the highest valor. Their bravery, dedication, perseverance, and

service helped the United States and our Allied forces in our fight to secure victory. But, Madam Speaker, these fighters weren't even permitted to serve alongside their fellow White soldiers. Our government threw them to the side—assigning them to a unit of the French Government rather than our own.

They put their lives on the line for the freedoms enshrined in our Constitution, despite doing so at a time when many like them did not enjoy the very freedoms they fought to protect.

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman from New York an additional 1 minute.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, these men spent 191 days in combat and were the most active regiment throughout the entire First World War. Under constant enemy fire and cast away from the nation they swore an oath to protect, they still persevered, fighting until the end.

There is no doubt that their heroism impacted the outcome of the war and, undoubtedly, American history as well.

This bill is a necessary first step to righting the decades-old injustice. It is about time the Harlem Hellfighters' invaluable contributions be commended and commemorated, and their service be formally recognized by our government. Let's finally give these men the Congressional Gold Medal they deserve.

□ 1515

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairwoman WATERS for managing this time.

To the gentleman from New York, what an honor it is for me to stand on this House floor as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, as a Black woman, to urge my colleagues to support the Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal Act.

We have heard so much about them, and I am proud to join them, giving them the recognition that they deserve. These men of this segregated unit fought bravely in the First World War and distinguished themselves in battle across France. The men of the 369th Infantry Regiment, the Harlem Hellfighters, are an important chapter in the long history of Black Americans serving our country.

So often we talk about Black history, but it is important to know that Black history is American history. And, today, we stand here united as Americans, Democrats, Republicans, asking our colleagues to make sure that we recognize the Harlem Hellfighters for the great work, the great bravery, for what they did for this country.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, may I inquire if there are additional speakers? I am prepared to close.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

There is an extraordinary story to tell about the American Armed Forces. There is an extraordinary story to tell about African Americans in our Armed Forces in the United States.

The Harlem Hellfighters were representative of a really amazing achievement during the war to end all wars, World War I. But there are also stories before this. That was not the first group of African Americans to fight to defend our Nation.

It was not the Civil War where African Americans fought for our Nation for the first time. It was not. It was actually our liberation from Great Britain. It was George Washington's army that had African Americans serving alongside other Americans to liberate us from Great Britain.

Our founding of this Nation is one of a multiracial, multiethnic, multilingual, amazing group of folks who wanted the same things, which is freedom to make decisions for themselves and for their families. And it was that first integrated army, which was George Washington's army, the Continental Army, that begat the African Americans who served alongside other Americans in the Civil War.

And, sadly, that established capacity was lost for two generations before the Great War, and the Harlem Hellfighters showed the American people that African Americans can fight just as well as any other American, and, in fact, do better in unmitigated harsh treatment on the front lines of the biggest war that anyone thought they would ever see in their lifetimes; which then said, during World War II, actually, we are all in this together; which then changed the whole face of the 20th century.

So what the Harlem Hellfighters represent to us in this debate is not just the good work of the Congressional delegation from New York, or Congressman SUOZZI in bringing this to the floor today, but giving us the opportunity to highlight what this generation of men showed to the American people and to our allies in Europe about who we are as Americans.

So for us to honor the Harlem Hellfighters today has given us the opportunity to recognize 100 years of progress. Not even progress, not fulfillment of every dream that we have as Americans, not perfect, not perfect, but a whole hell of a lot better than we were 100 years ago when these Harlem Hellfighters showed the world not just what America is about, but specifically what African Americans were about and their capacity. Not just capacity to fight, but to be smart, to be capable, to deliver results, to be the best, the best.

So the last hundred years, you can go back to that generation of Harlem

Hellfighters and you can see what they brought to the public and the understanding that they brought over the last hundred years, and it made us better.

So for us to have this opportunity to recognize them also lets us recognize ourselves as a country and who we are, and to actually say, you know, it is pretty amazing. We have an amazing country. And these men who fought and died—many who died—they loved their country. They love their country and they are willing to not just support it with words like I am right now, but with their lives.

So, with a grateful heart, I say thank you to Congressman SUOZZI and his constituents for bringing this debate to the floor.

I want to thank my colleagues for doing this in a very wide, bipartisan way, and giving us the opportunity to have a broader look at history and the greatness of the last century and the improvement that we have as a result of what they broke through over 100 years ago in the Argonne Forest.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I certainly want to thank Mr. SUOZZI for bringing forward this legislation. I want to thank Mr. ESPAILLAT and Congresswoman BEATTY for joining with him to bring this legislation forward. I want to thank Mr. MCHENRY and the members of the Financial Services Committee for joining together in support of this legislation.

The Harlem Hellfighters braved long deployments, treacherous conditions, and the scorn of their fellow patriots. So we find ourselves, I guess, 100 years later or so, understanding the important role that they played and the sacrifices that they made.

We also understand how important it is for all of us to not only give recognition to their sacrifice, but also recognize that this country has gone through some very difficult times, faced with the question of race.

Despite the fact that we have seen times in this country when we were moving forward and we thought we were erasing the kind of racism that had been present for too long, we find ourselves today fighting some of the same battles.

There are many in the history of this country who have made sacrifices in so many different ways that perhaps will never be recognized. But I am hopeful, with the cooperation, the cosponsorship, and the work for both sides of the aisle on a recognition such as this, that this will help us to continue to fight to rid this country of racism and discrimination and hatred.

I am hopeful that the word will go forward today about this recognition that we are giving to the Harlem Hellfighters and will inspire others to want to praise and honor those who are certainly ones who are so committed to

justice and equality, and who love this country will be treated better, will be recognized, and certainly will be given their correct place in history.

So I urge Members to celebrate the memory of these brave men of the 369th Infantry Regiment, who, through their service, sought to realize a more equal and a more perfect union, by voting "yes" on H.R. 3642.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3642, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

DEBT BONDAGE REPAIR ACT

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2332) to prohibit consumer reporting agencies from furnishing a consumer report containing any adverse item of information about a consumer if such consumer is a victim of trafficking, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2332

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Debt Bondage Repair Act".

SEC. 2. ADVERSE INFORMATION IN CASES OF TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 605B the following:

"§605C Adverse information in cases of trafficking

"(a) IN GENERAL.—A consumer reporting agency may not furnish a consumer report containing any adverse item of information about a consumer that resulted from a severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking if the consumer has provided trafficking documentation to the consumer reporting agency.

"(b) RULEMAKING.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, issue a rule to implement subsection (a).

"(2) CONTENTS.—The rule issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall establish a method by which consumers shall submit trafficking documentation to consumer reporting agencies.

"(c) DEFINITIONS.—

"(1) TRAFFICKING DOCUMENTATION.—The term trafficking documentation means—

"(A) documentation of either—

"(i) a determination by a Federal or State government entity that a consumer is a victim of trafficking; or

"(ii) a determination by a court of competent jurisdiction that a consumer is a victim of trafficking; and

"(B) documentation that identifies items of adverse information that should not be furnished by a consumer reporting agency because the items resulted from the severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking of which such consumer is a victim.

"(2) VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING.—For the purposes of this section, the term "victim of trafficking" means a person who is a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking, as such terms are defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000."

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Fair Credit Reporting Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 605B the following new item:

"605C. Adverse information in cases of trafficking."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection issues a rule pursuant to section 605C(b) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

(d) DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Committee on Financial Services ranking member, Mr. MCHENRY, for introducing H.R. 2332, the Debt Bondage Repair Act.

Over the last year, working in a bipartisan manner, the Financial Services Committee has been engaged in an examination of trafficking issues of all types. As we heard at a recent hearing that delved into issues of human trafficking, which includes forced labor, sex trafficking and organ trafficking, victims of trafficking are not only abused physically and emotionally, but financially also.

The moving testimony of Reverend Dr. Martin Hatcher, an advocate for sex trafficking survivors and a survivor himself, demonstrated how traffickers

steal their victims' identities, open accounts in their names, run up credit card debt, purchase large ticket items like automobiles, and take out loans while pretending to be their victims.

This financial exploitation is not only designed as a stream of finance, allowing the traffickers' operation to thrive, but it also inflicts long-term harm and asserts control over the victim.

This bill, which aims to help survivors of human trafficking restore their credit and gain access to the consumer financial products and services that most of us take for granted, is an important step in restoring survivors' dignity and financial stability and in preventing revictimization.

Specifically, the bill prohibits credit bureaus from including adverse information that resulted from human or sex trafficking in a victim's credit report. It directs the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to develop a process to ensure that adverse information caused by their traffickers is not included in a victim's credit report. Such a process does not exist now and, given the importance that credit reports play in our economy, it makes it difficult for survivors in our communities to get a loan or even secure a job.

As noted by the Survivor Inclusion Initiative of the Human Trafficking Focus Liechtenstein Initiative, we must "facilitate survivor access to basic banking services, such as checking and savings accounts, and help survivors' financial recovery to become full financial participants in their communities."

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2332, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, debt bondage is a terrible crime, and many victims find themselves trapped in a perpetual cycle of forced labor and coerced debt because of it.

Earlier this year, the House Financial Services Committee held a hearing where we focused on the financing of human trafficking. This is an area of bipartisan cooperation on the House Financial Services Committee. I want to commend my Democrat colleagues for leading this discussion and finding time on the committee docket for us to continue the conversation we have had over the last couple of Congresses.

In that hearing, we heard from many powerful witnesses, including Rev. Dr. Marian Hatcher, who is a trafficking survivor. Rev. Dr. Hatcher had the courage to tell us her story, and because of it, we now have legislation that will help others.

This is the way Congress is supposed to work. We are supposed to listen to experts and get ideas out of that on how we can construct legislation. Because of Dr. Hatcher, we know a lot more.

Dr. Hatcher, like so many others in this country and around the globe, but in this country, in particular, fell victim to human traffickers. Thankfully, she was able to escape a terrible situation and restore her life.

However, she struggled to reestablish herself because of a credit score, which was negatively affecting her whole financial life. She was affected by loans in particular that she was forced to obtain on behalf of her traffickers.

So not only does she have to go through the emotional and social struggles, but she has this that is a weight around her. This is something where we can legislate and make her life and make the lives of trafficking survivors like hers better.

You see, Madam Speaker, this is where traffickers trap a victim into a debt cycle. Traffickers will take out loans, open businesses, and destroy a victim's credit, which forces them to remain a victim until they pay off the debt.

Now, you think this happens in other places around the globe. You think that this is some other country. No, it is here. It is here in our midst, and they are doing it through what seems like legal means.

Too often, these victims are never able to get out. This is something that we have to be aware of and focus on.

That is where this bill, the Debt Bondage Repair Act, comes in. This simple, 4-page bill has the potential to help thousands of victims every year by ensuring that a consumer reporting agency may not furnish a credit report with adverse information from a severe form of trafficking.

While this does not erase the terrible crimes committed against them, it will help victims to regain their financial freedom and begin to rebuild their lives.

I would like to note that this bill has a very tailored rulemaking provision.

We want to fix this problem. We provide the CFPB a window of 180 days for rulemaking. This should be sufficient time to hear from all the stakeholders. But it is my hope that they will complete this rulemaking quickly so that the victims can get relief as soon as possible.

I would like to thank the many victim advocates and consumer data industry representatives who provided technical assistance to get this bill where it is.

I would say the difficulty of legislating is that you have to take in folks who are on opposite sides of an issue. Not that they don't care about the same issue, but you have folks that are on one side of a business and those advocates that see things differently. It takes time to bring them together to see what is a workable solution, maybe not a perfect solution, but a workable solution.

I include in the RECORD statements of support from Shared Hope International, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, Rev. Dr. Hatcher her-

self, and the Consumer Data Industry Association.

SHAREDHOPE INTERNATIONAL,

June 11, 2021.

Letter of Support for the Debt Bondage Repair Act.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER MCHENRY AND CONGRESSMEMBERS WAGNER, GONZALEZ, TAYLOR, AND HILL: Traffickers financially benefit from exploiting human trafficking victims through forced labor and commercial sex, but also by exploiting their victims' credit history. With credit cards, loan applications, and access to financial services all dependent on an individual's credit history, the impact of this financial exploitation is both far reaching and long-term.

We thank you for taking an important step in addressing these harms by introducing and sponsoring HR 2332, the Debt Bondage Repair Act (DBRA). The DBRA supports trafficking survivors by preventing consumer reporting agencies from issuing credit reports containing adverse information that resulted from a survivor's victimization. This legislation is essential to address the long-term impact of human trafficking by eliminating adverse credit history that would otherwise remain on a survivor's credit report. Most importantly, the DBRA provides survivors an opportunity for financial independence and stability that can help end the cycle of exploitation.

Good credit history is essential for opening bank accounts, and applying for loans, credit cards, insurance, and housing. Credit reports are also sometimes necessary for applying for student loans, and utility and cellphone service contracts. Individuals with adverse credit history and low credit scores experience higher interest rates or denial altogether.

Traffickers use coercion and control to financially exploit their victims in various ways. One survivor described her trafficker coercing her into obtaining a loan and then credit cards by threatening the survivor's family. This left the survivor with poor credit and more than \$25,000 in debt. Traffickers may also try to access credit that has not yet been exploited by intentionally targeting younger victims. One survivor recalled a trafficker targeting seventeen-year-old girls, who were about to turn eighteen because the trafficker could exploit their fresh credit by having them sign up for credit cards. In addition, as Rev. Dr. Marian Hatcher powerfully recounted in her testimony to the House Committee on Financial Services, traffickers may also use their victim's credit to purchase expensive items, such as cars. Traffickers also control their victim's bank accounts, passwords, and use the victim's accounts to engage in criminal activities. Consequently, financial institutions may later deny the survivor services because of criminal activity. Traffickers often exploit their victim's credit history at a time when the victim is not present in the formal economy and unable to build positive credit history.

Trafficking survivors then experience adverse credit history and burdensome loan obligations because of their financial exploitation. Consequently, when survivors leave their trafficking situations, they often cannot access financial resources. Trafficking survivors report difficulty opening bank accounts and obtaining safe housing, employment, cars, and cell phones. Access to housing is especially important to ending the cycle of vulnerability and exploitation. In one study, 64% of trafficking victims reported that lack of affordable housing prevented them from escaping their trafficking situation. Lack of resources may result in survivors returning to their exploitative circumstances. In her testimony to the House

Committee on Financial Services, Rev. Dr. Marian Hatcher testified that lack of resources leads to reexploitation because "survivors feel they have no option other than returning to the commercial sex industry." Also, obstacles to accessing financial resources and student loans may also hinder a survivor's educational aspirations. This negatively impacts the survivor's academic empowerment and long-term goals. Furthermore, survivors may feel stigmatized or embarrassed because of their poor credit. By preventing a consumer reporting agency from reporting adverse information resulting from a survivor's trafficking, the DBRA prevents a survivor's credit report from becoming an apparatus for continuing victimization.

Poor credit due to financial exploitation has long-term impacts on a survivor's ability to access financial resources, build financial independence, and navigate life after exploitation. The Debt Bondage Repair Act is crucial to providing trafficking survivors a clean slate and path toward financial independence. We support this critical legislation and urge Congress to support trafficking survivors by passing the Debt Bondage Repair Act.

Sincerely,

CHRISTINE RAINO,
Senior Director of Public Policy,
Shared Hope International.

NCSE LETTER OF SUPPORT

The National Center on Sexual Exploitation is grateful to Rep. Patrick McHenry for introducing HR 2332, the Debt Bondage Repair Act (DBRA) and to Survivor Leader Marian Hatcher, whose testimony before the Financial Services Committee inspired this solution.

H.R. 2332 provides financial relief to victims of human trafficking by preventing adverse credit reporting of incidents which occurred while being trafficked. The ability to move forward in life after tremendous adversity requires financial well-being along with personal well-being. In America, financial health depends on good credit. HR 2332 allows victims to put the past behind them and seek a much-needed fresh start. It is an excellent complement to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in supporting justice for survivors.

We look forward to working toward passage of this act as well as continued efforts on behalf of trafficking survivors.

REVEREND DR. MARIAN HATCHER LETTER OF
SUPPORT: H.R. 2332

Survivors need a great deal of time trying to heal in ways you would expect; physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

However, another critically important aspect of healing is often left unattended and impedes the path to holistic health. That aspect is financial healing.

In many cases, the lack of financial wellness causes victims to have no option but to return to exploitive situations.

In other circumstances, survivors may be held civilly or criminally liable for debt incurred during their trafficking.

Any of these scenarios prevent the life of liberty and wholeness that survivors yearn for and deserve.

The Debt Bondage Repair Act will help provide survivors with a viable chance at full wellbeing, inclusive of financial stability and security.

I strongly support this critical legislation and urge Congress to support trafficking survivors by passing the Debt Bondage Repair Act.

REV. DR. MARIAN HATCHER.

CONSUMER DATA INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, June 14, 2021.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Chairwoman,
Hon. PATRICK T. MCHENRY,
Ranking Member,
Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS AND RANKING MEMBER MCHENRY: I write on behalf of the Consumer Data Industry Association in support of H.R. 2332, the Debt Bondage Repair Act. This bill will give victims of human trafficking and debt bondage the ability to prove that they were victims of human trafficking and financial abuse so they can remove that information from their financial history.

This bill will help to address the financial trauma victims of human trafficking often endure. These victims should not have to bear the burden of fraudulent debts and ruined credit from their exploitation as they begin to rebuild their lives. Any verified fraudulent data on a credit report should be removed promptly from credit reports. In fact, the current practice credit bureaus follow is to remove any verified fraudulent data from reports. This bill will be helpful as it will specifically acknowledge in the law that these kinds of abuses occur and that the resulting tradelines should be deleted from reports.

Thank you for your work on this legislation.

Sincerely,

FRANCIS CREIGHTON,
President & CEO.

Mr. MCHEHENRY. Additionally, I would like to thank Polaris for their support of this legislation.

This is a great example of what happens when both parties work together. I want to thank Chairwoman WATERS for her help and assistance, and her staff, the Financial Services Committee majority Democrat staff, for their help with my staff and the Republican minority staff on the House Financial Services Committee.

We have a bipartisan solution to help trafficking victims pick up the pieces and begin a new life. I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I think this will be helpful to the lives at stake and let them rebuild their lives, not just financially but rebuild their lives.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time until Mr. MCHEHENRY yields back.

Mr. MCHEHENRY. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this good bipartisan bill that will help victims.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina has yielded back.

The gentlewoman from California has the only time remaining.

Mr. MCHEHENRY. Madam Speaker, I thought I reserved.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this important measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Survivors of human trafficking face many obstacles to recovering from the

physical, emotional, and financial abuse inflicted by their traffickers. The Debt Bondage Repair Act makes strides in assisting them to restore their credit and achieve financial reintegration into their communities.

Congress can play a leading role in helping trafficking survivors to take back control. For that reason, I certainly urge both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this important bill.

I do want to take a moment to thank my ranking member, Mr. MCHEHENRY, for the leadership that he has provided on trafficking in general and on financial trafficking specifically. This is important legislation, and I am so pleased to be able to work with him, and I am so pleased that this bill has bipartisan support. I want to thank him for the work that he has done and will continue to do.

I would also briefly note that survivors of trafficking are not the only individuals who are harmed by our broken credit reporting system. The system serves as a major barrier to economic opportunity for so many others. So we are going to continue working with Mr. MCHEHENRY, and I have scheduled a full committee hearing on June 29 to further explore these credit reporting challenges. I believe that our Republican colleagues will join with us to advance bold solutions to make the system fair for all of our constituents.

Again, I am so pleased that the members of the committee have worked together. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2332, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2332, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

LGBTQ BUSINESS EQUAL CREDIT ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTMENT ACT

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1443) to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to require the collection of small business loan data related to LGBTQ-owned businesses, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1443

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act”.

SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS LOAN DATA COLLECTION.

Section 704B of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691c-2) is amended—

(1) by inserting “LGBTQ-owned,” after “minority-owned,” each place such term appears;

(2) in subsection (e)(2)(G), by inserting “, sexual orientation, gender identity” after “sex”; and

(3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following:

“(7) LGBTQ-OWNED BUSINESS.—The term ‘LGBTQ-owned business’ means a business—

“(A) more than 50 percent of the ownership or control of which is held by 1 or more individuals self-identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer; and

“(B) more than 50 percent of the net profit or loss of which accrues to 1 or more individuals self-identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer.”.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHEHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York, Representative TORRES, for his leadership on H.R. 1443, the LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act.

We know transparency is critical in helping identify discriminatory lending practices in the financial marketplace. This bill would enhance a provision of Dodd-Frank requiring data collection on lending to small and minority-owned businesses to include data on lending to LGBTQ-owned businesses as well, including self-reported gender identity and sexual orientation.

This bill will also define an LGBTQ-owned business in the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the ECOA, which would allow more businesses to gain access to capital and investment.

Of course, June is Pride Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the

LGBTQ community's significant contributions to our country, including to the economy, and to also stand as allies.

We know there is more work to be done to ensure equal opportunities. For example, according to a study of mortgage lending data from 2019, loan applicants in neighborhoods with a higher density of LGBTQ people received higher interest and fees, regardless of the applicant's sexuality or identity.

In addition, LGBTQ individuals face employment discrimination, which has contributed to high rates of poverty, especially for LGBTQ people of color. The Williams Institute found that nearly 31 percent of Black LGBTQ people live in poverty compared with nearly 25 percent of Black cisgender, straight people.

These factors further support the urgency of supporting LGBTQ businesses as they create job opportunities and build community wealth.

As of 2016, there were an estimated 1.4 million LGBTQ-owned businesses in the United States. The CFPB needs to begin collecting this data and help us as policymakers and the public identify and understand the community development needs of LGBTQ-owned businesses.

I am pleased we were able to report this bill unanimously out of committee with a voice vote. I hope we can build on that bipartisan effort, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We can all agree data is important. But we need to recognize, particularly as it relates to obtaining data on companies, that each one is unique. Mandatory reporting metrics do not accurately measure progress.

Just look at the mandatory disclosure bills on the floor this week. They are a mess. The only outcome we can expect to see with those bills is a higher compliance cost on companies, leaving fewer resources to build out a workforce and invest in research and development.

Simply put, one size does not fit all, and one-size-fits-all doesn't work.

However, the bill we have in front of us today does not impose a new mandatory reporting regime. It adds on a list of voluntary data and adds a new item to that voluntary data. Data is collected on a voluntary basis under ECOA, under this law that is being amended. Any loan applicant who does not wish to provide information can decline to provide it, meaning there are fewer concerns over privacy or a one-size-fits-all reporting regime.

These are the things I have raised about this bill. I want to commend the sponsor for being willing to work with Republicans on getting back to the essence of the bill. I appreciate that my Democrat colleagues have offered a so-

lution to promote diversity and inclusion without imposing new requirements on businesses or business owners that do not effectively measure their success.

I support this bill. I will vote for this bill. And I want to commend my Democrat colleagues for working with us on a number of concerns that we had with the various drafts of the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time we have remaining in this debate?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 17½ minutes remaining.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield all 17½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES), who is also the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 1443, the LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act.

I want to thank Chairwoman WATERS and Ranking Member MCHENRY for their support. As the ranking member noted, we did make concessions to address his concerns about the legislation.

In the United States there are 1.4 million LGBTQ businesses, contributing more than \$1.7 trillion to the American economy. We have a vested interest in sustaining and strengthening these businesses with equal access to credit, which is the beating heart of the American economy.

As a former New York City Council member, I partnered with the National LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce to establish the Nation's largest municipal certification program for LGBTQ business enterprises, enabling those businesses to enjoy equal access to a \$25 billion pool of government procurement.

The legislation before us, H.R. 1443, builds on a foundation laid by several statutes and regulations. The Equal Credit Opportunity Act, most commonly known as ECOA, prohibits credit discrimination, including but not limited to sex discrimination. A new interpretive rule from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, CFPB, clarifies that ECOA's prohibition against sex discrimination applies to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Section 1071 of Dodd-Frank, which exists to enable and enhance the enforcement of ECOA, requires financial institutions to report information about the race, ethnicity, and sex of credit applicants who serve as principal owners of small businesses.

My legislation would expand the 1071 reporting requirements to include not only sex but also sexual orientation and gender identity. In doing so, it would enable antidiscrimination enforcement where none might exist.

Even though the United States has made substantial strides toward

LGBTQ equality, the mission is far from accomplished. Seventy percent of the LGBTQ community remains unprotected by antidiscrimination laws. When it comes to credit in particular, according to the Williams Institute, more than 7.7 million LGBTQ adults live in states that offer no protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

It is often said that knowledge is power. Knowledge affords us the power to detect discrimination that might otherwise go undetected. Take as an example the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, which is analogous to the legislation before us. Both the National Community Reinvestment Coalition and Iowa State University reviewed data from the HMDA and found that same-sex couples were denied loans at higher rates than heterosexual couples despite having comparable creditworthiness. It also found that those same-sex couples paid higher fees and interest. The experience of HMDA tells us that sunlight can be a powerful disinfectant against discrimination.

H.R. 1443 would make credit more accessible, credit laws more enforceable, and creditors more accountable. It would represent a triumph of transparency in the service of economic opportunity for all, regardless of who you are and whom you love.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act led by Representative TORRES would help ensure that LGBTQ business owners have access to opportunities to grow and invest through government and other private procurement contracts as well as have equal access to credit opportunities.

This bill is supported by the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, the Center for American Progress, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the National Center for Transgender Equality, Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research, Human Rights Campaign, Out Leadership, and many others.

The Financial Services Committee passed this bill unanimously by voice vote in May 2021, and I would like to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, again, to join me in supporting this important legislation.

I would like to thank the ranking member, Mr. MCHENRY, for joining with me and others to pass this important legislation and particularly this Pride Month that we are all celebrating the progress that has been made in the LGBTQ community.

I thank Mr. MCHENRY for his cosponsorship, his support, and his cooperation, for all that we are able to get done these days working together.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1443, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

AWARDING FOUR CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS TO UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE AND THOSE WHO PROTECTED THE U.S. CAPITOL ON JANUARY 6, 2021

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3325) to award four congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3325

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Every day, the United States Capitol Police (“Capitol Police”) protects the U.S. Capitol, Members of Congress, congressional staff and institutional staff, journalists, and the visiting public.

(2) On January 6, 2021, a mob of insurrectionists forced its way into the U.S. Capitol building and congressional office buildings and engaged in acts of vandalism, looting, and violently attacked Capitol Police officers.

(3) The sacrifice of heroes including Capitol Police Officers Brian Sicknick and Howard Liebengood, Metropolitan Police Department Officer Jeffrey Smith, and those who sustained injuries, and the courage of Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman, exemplify the patriotism and the commitment of Capitol Police officers, and those of other law enforcement agencies, to risk their lives in service of our country.

(4) Up to seven Americans died following this violent attack, and more than 140 law enforcement officers suffered physical injuries, including 15 officers who were hospitalized.

(5) The desecration of the U.S. Capitol, which is the temple of our American Democracy, and the violence targeting Congress are horrors that will forever stain our Nation’s history.

(6) On April 2, 2021 Officer William “Billy” Evans was killed while protecting the North Barricade of the Capitol. Officer Evans was a distinguished member of the First Responders Unit and an eighteen-year veteran of the United States Capitol Police. Also injured in that assault was Officer Kenneth Shaver. Officer Shaver is a fifteen-year veteran of the United States Capitol Police.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZATION.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate

shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of four gold medals of appropriate design to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall strike gold medals with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) DISPOSITION OF MEDALS.—Following the award of the gold medals under subsection (a):

(1) USCP HEADQUARTERS.—One gold medal shall be given to the United States Capitol Police, so that the medal may be displayed at the headquarters of the United States Capitol Police and made available for research, as appropriate.

(2) DC METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.—One gold medal shall be given to the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, so that the medal may be displayed at the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police Department and made available for research, as appropriate.

(3) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—One gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it shall be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

(B) PLAQUE.—In displaying the gold medal given under subparagraph (A), the Smithsonian Institution shall display the medal with a plaque that lists all of the law enforcement agencies that participated in protecting the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

(C) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal given under subparagraph (A) available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with the protection of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

(4) UNITED STATES CAPITOL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—One gold medal shall be given to the Architect of the Capitol, for display in a prominent location in the United States Capitol as appropriate and available for research.

(B) PLAQUE.—In displaying the gold medal given under subparagraph (A), the Architect of the Capitol shall display the medal with a plaque that lists all of the law enforcement agencies that participated in protecting the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medals struck pursuant to section 2 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that the United States Mint should expedite production of the gold medals and duplicate medals under this Act, so that the sacrifices of fallen officers and their families, and the contributions of other law enforcement agencies who answered the call of duty on January 6, 2021, can be recognized and honored in a timely manner.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.

Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for the purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 6. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legisla-

tion” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, every day the men and women of the United States Capitol Police protect the U.S. Capitol. They protect us, they protect our staff, they protect journalists and other visitors who come into the people’s House.

In March of this year, the House passed H.R. 1085 to award three Congressional Gold Medals honoring the courage, patriotism, and commitment to service exemplified by the men and women of the Capitol Police, Metropolitan Police, and other law enforcement agencies who risked their lives and sustained injuries as they sought to protect those trapped in the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

This bill builds upon H.R. 1085 to include minting of a fourth Congressional Gold Medal to be displayed by the Architect of the Capitol so that we may continue to honor those officers who sustained injuries in the line of duty and the sacrifices of heroes, including Capitol Police Officers Brian Sicknick and Howard Liebengood and Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department Officer Jeffrey Smith. We also honor Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman; whose quick thinking and selfless action undoubtedly saved the lives of many.

Additionally, this bill honors the memory of Capitol Police Officer William “Billy” Evans, who was killed while protecting the north barricade of the Capitol against a vehicular assault on April 2, 2021. It also honors the bravery displayed by Capitol Police Officer Kenneth Shaver, who was also injured in that assault.

I thank Speaker PELOSI for introducing this bill this Congress and urge Members to vote “yes.”

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3325, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the U.S. Capitol Police and those who protected the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

I would like to thank the Speaker for bringing this legislation to the floor to honor the officers who work tirelessly to protect us in and out every day, to not just protect this building, but to protect the Members in this building. Not just protect the Members, but to make sure that staff is safe on a daily basis. And the staff, indeed, makes Congress what it is and gives us the capacity that we have to legislate. We want to make sure that staff and Members and our visitors here are protected on a daily basis, and the Capitol Police, indeed, do that.

Madam Speaker, what happened to this institution on January 6 was horrific. This building is a working monument to our Nation's Founding Fathers and our founding principles. It is a testament to the freedoms we hold dear and that we strive for, and we strive to become a more perfect Union on every day that we are here. Not perfectly, but we strive for a more perfect Union.

Madam Speaker, the brave men and women who stood and faced danger on January 6 deserve to be recognized for their actions. Without their courageous work and their dedication, many of us here today could have been seriously injured or worse.

This gold medal will also honor another Capitol Police Officer, William "Billy" Evans. Officer Evans, an 18-year veteran of Capitol Police, was killed at his post when a car rammed into the Capitol barricade on Good Friday. Any life lost is a tragedy, especially those of our friends on the police force.

Once this bill is enacted, a Congressional Gold Medal will be displayed at the U.S. Capitol Police headquarters. It will be a recognition of the good work the Capitol Police do on a daily basis. Another will be displayed at the D.C. Metropolitan Police headquarters, and the third will be given to the Smithsonian Institution so everyone who visits D.C. will be reminded of the bravery by our police officers on that very day.

Madam Speaker, I think I speak for all my colleagues when I say thank you, thank you to each and every officer who was here on January 6. Their bravery will not be forgotten.

The U.S. Capitol Police and those who protected us on January 6 deserve this Congressional Gold Medal. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) the Speaker, who is also the sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for leading the effort on the floor today to pass this important legislation. I commend her and the ranking member, Mr. MCHENRY, for his good words about this legislation and his reference to the bravery of our Capitol Police.

Madam Speaker, over 5 months have passed since the January 6 insurrection

was waged against our Capitol and our democracy.

For most of us, the horror of January 6 has not faded. The memory of Members, staff, and workers fleeing for their lives, the sound of screams and shots fired, the agony of over 140 law enforcement officers physically harmed and those killed all remain very raw.

January 6 was unquestionably one of the darkest days in the history of our democracy, but because of the courage of the Capitol Police and other law enforcement officers, it will also be etched in history as a day of heroism. That day the Capitol Police Force put themselves between the violence and us. They risked their safety and their lives for others with the utmost selflessness. Some died, becoming martyrs for our democracy.

They did so because they were patriots, the type of Americans who heard the call to serve and answered it, putting country above self. They enabled us to return to the Capitol, to that podium that night to show the world that our democracy had prevailed and that it had succeeded because of them.

□ 1600

In March, as you recall, we came together and we passed legislation to award these patriots the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award, as has been mentioned, that this body can offer.

Doing so was a high honor and privilege for each of us, and it was also our responsibility to ensure that we always remember those heroes and their sacrifice.

As I said on the floor then: "May the courage of these heroes always remain an inspiration to us. And may we always remember the valor of the fallen."

This gold medal will be proudly displayed, as the distinguished gentleman referenced, for years to come, ensuring that their valor and the sacrifice of the fallen are always remembered.

But 2 weeks after we passed that gold medal legislation, as you know, Madam Speaker, under your leadership, Congress honored one of the fallen, Officer Brian Sicknick, with a lying-in-state ceremony to convey the grief and gratitude felt for all Americans by his sacrifice.

That respect was reflected in the presence of distinguished leaders, military leaders, and leaders of institutions of government who came to pay their respects, including President Biden.

Sadly, just weeks later, we returned to the Capitol rotunda for a lying-in-honor ceremony for Officer Billy Evans, as the distinguished ranking member mentioned, killed in the line of duty in April on Good Friday.

Officer Evans was a distinguished member of the first responders unit and an 18-year veteran of the United States Capitol Police.

Everyone who knew him knew he was a hero. We hope that it was a comfort to his children Logan and Abigail that

so many learned that day what a hero their father was. We hope by adding Billy's name to the pantheon of patriots honored with this gold medal, the memory of his sacrifice will always endure.

So here we are once again on the floor of the House honoring our heroes. As we pass this legislation, we, as Members of Congress, have a responsibility to do more than simply laud these officers as heroes.

We must respect them and we must support them with resources and funding. We must keep them safe. And we must ensure that a January 6th attack can never happen again.

This is about our respect for their service and our responsibility to honor their sacrifice. Any chance we get, we want to praise our Capitol Police. Sadly, we are doing this in a time when we are honoring some who have lost their lives and some were severely injured, but every day we know that they are making a sacrifice, and that is what we respect.

I urge a strong bipartisan vote for this legislation. I am pleased to hear both our distinguished chair, MAXINE WATERS, and the distinguished ranking member both support the legislation. I urge all members to join us in honoring our law enforcement heroes with real action with a gold medal.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman WATERS for yielding, and I thank the gentlewoman and the ranking member for their leadership.

I ask that we think carefully as this legislation is debated and really reflect on January 6, where each of us probably has a personal experience that we can offer to be able to add to the sacrifice of that day, the moment in history and imaging that we never expected an insurrectionist mob to rise to attack the citadel of democracy.

We were here quietly doing the people's business, the constitutional responsibility of affirming the President and Vice President of the United States. We were doing what the American people asked us to do. We were representing the Capitol Police and law enforcement throughout America. Nurses, doctors, students, teachers, the impoverished, all were with hope looking toward the Biden-Harris administration.

We knew that there were those who did not vote for them, but we also knew the sacredness of our Constitution, and so did the Capitol Police and other law enforcement.

For as we were down in this very august place where noises could not be heard quickly, our Capitol Police were already facing a torrent of outrageous behavior, violence, guns, smears, flags representing the worst of our Nation.

So I am very proud to rise today and thank Speaker PELOSI for the vision

and leadership and to remember to be reminded of the names Brian Sicknick, Howard Liebengood, Metropolitan Police Department Officer Jeffrey Smith, and those who sustained injuries, those who were heroic; Officer Eugene Goodman exemplified the patriotism, commitment, and unselfishness in saving the lives of others; and the Metropolitan police, along with many other law enforcement.

I rise to support this gold medal. I rise so that we never have this happen again. And I rise to say the simple words of “thank you.”

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3325, legislation awarding four Congressional Gold Medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who, on January 6, 2021, displayed selfless and heroic service in defense of American democracy in protecting the U.S. Capitol from the violent assault of domestic terrorists.

The United States Capitol Police dates back to 1800 when the Congress moved from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C., and a lone watchman was hired to protect the Capitol Building.

In 1827, President John Quincy Adams asked that a regular Capitol Police force be established, and on May 2, 1828, Congress passed an Act that expanded the police regulations of the City of Washington to include the Capitol and Capitol Square.

The United States Capitol Police expanded its force after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and again following the historic merger with the Library of Congress Police in 2009.

In addition to the more than 2,000 sworn members of the force, the United States Capitol Police Department has over 350 civilian personnel who provide operational and administrative support, and its diverse workforce is comprised of employees from nearly all 50 states and the U.S. territories.

The United States Capitol Police embodies the best in American policing and serves as a model in security, urban crime prevention, dignity protection, specialty response capabilities, and homeland security.

As ambassadors of the Congress, officers of the United States Capitol Police Department are often the first face that visitors and employees encounter, leaving a lasting impression that is reflective of the Legislative Branch and its role in America's democracy.

Officers of the United States Capitol Police Department each day proudly protect the legislative process, the symbol of the Nation's democracy, the people who carry out the process, and the millions of visitors who travel here to see democracy in action.

No finer example of the selfless devotion to duty, love of country, and fidelity to their oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the officers of the United States Capitol Police Department's than their valiant, heroic, and courageous response to the January 6, 2021 assault on the Capitol Building by thousands of domestic terrorists, insurrectionists, and rioters sent there by the President of the United States to “fight like hell” to disrupt and derail the constitutionally required Joint Meeting of Congress to open, count, and publicly confirm the vote tally of the presidential electors and announce the persons who had been elected President and Vice-President of the United States.

District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser and the Metropolitan Police Department have a distinguished record of protecting all groups, regardless of their beliefs, who come to the Nation's capital to exercise their First Amendment rights peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

At the direction of Mayor Bowser, and in advance of the scheduled demonstrations, mutual aid was requested by the Metropolitan Police Department from several area police departments to be on standby in the District, including neighboring law enforcement departments, the Metropolitan Transit Police and non-law enforcement agencies such as the District's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency and the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department.

The sustained assault on the Capitol precipitated an equally unprecedented response, necessitating the urgent request of the United States Capitol Police for the Metropolitan Police Department to come defend the Capitol to which the Metropolitan Police Department responded immediately with several Civil Disturbance Unit Platoons and proceeded to deploy to the west front of the Capitol and arrived within minutes.

The violent mob overran protective measures at the Capitol, and by 1:50 p.m., Metropolitan Police Department had declared the assembly to be a riot and immediately began working to achieve the objectives of stopping domestic terrorists from entering the Capitol building and removing those that were already inside, secure a perimeter so that the Capitol could be cleared for lawmakers to resume the Joint Meeting of Congress to demonstrate to the Nation and the world the robustness and vitality of America's democracy, and making arrests of anyone violating the law.

During the height of the siege of the Capitol, approximately 850 Metropolitan Police Department members were at the Capitol, with another 250 had been in the area to directly support the response and aftermath.

Madam Speaker, people around the country and the world were shocked and moved by the video of a Metropolitan Police Department Officer being beaten by a crowd of insurgents, including one wielding an American flag, and of another in agony as he was crushed between a door and a riot shield but also awed by their bravery in the face of this unprovoked and vicious attack, bravery that was matched that day by countless other unheralded Metropolitan Police Department officers.

The January 6, 2021 siege of the Capitol assault resulted in one of the worst days of injuries for law enforcement in the United States since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Madam Speaker, officers of the United States Capitol Police Department, the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C., and other uniformed law enforcement officers stood their ground in defense of American democracy while being attacked by the angry mob of domestic terrorists with metal pipes, discharged chemical irritants, and other weapons.

At least 138 officers, 73 from the United States Capitol Police Department and 65 from the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, sustained injuries during the attack on the Capitol Building, several of which required hospitalization.

The injuries sustained ranged from bruises and lacerations to more serious damage such as concussions, rib fractures, burns, and even a mild heart attack.

One United States Capitol Police Department officer died from injuries sustained while physically engaging with protesters and two officers involved in the response have died by suicide.

Dozens, if not hundreds, of officers whom law enforcement officials estimate will suffer in years to come with post-traumatic stress disorder and the dozens who contracted the coronavirus from the unmasked domestic terrorists and rioters who stormed the Capitol.

At least 38 Capitol Police officers have tested positive or were exposed to the coronavirus as well as nearly 200 National Guard personnel who were deployed to protect the Capitol.

Madam Speaker, the seven hours between the urgent call for help from the Capitol Police to Metropolitan Police Department and the resumption of work by both houses of Congress will be indelibly etched in the memories of every law enforcement officer who was on the scene, as it is in the minds of the Senators, Representatives, congressional and support staff, and members of the media corps who were forced to seek safety behind locked doors.

Despite being overwhelmed and outnumbered, the indomitable forces of American democracy, symbolized by the resolve of the officers of the United States Capitol Police Department, prevailed and the seditious attack was quelled, the Capitol Building preserved, and the lives of United States Senators and Representatives protected, as well as those of congressional and support staff, and order was restored so that the Joint Meeting of Congress was resumed and completed its constitutionally required duty of counting and announcing the votes of the presidential electors, an essential step in the peaceful transfer of power that has been a hallmark of American democracy and the example to the world for more than two centuries.

As the legislation recites, “the courage of Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman,” and “the sacrifice of heroes including Capitol Police Officers Brian Sicknick and Howard Liebengood, Metropolitan Police Department Officer Jeffrey Smith, and those who sustained injuries, exemplify the patriotism” and devotion to duty of Capitol Police officers, and those of other law enforcement agencies, who risk their lives in service of our country.

Madam Speaker, the Congressional Gold Medals authorized to be minted by this legislation and to be displayed at the United States Capitol Police headquarters, the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C., the Smithsonian Institution, and by the Architect of the Capitol at the United States Capitol conveys the thanks and appreciation of a grateful nation for the selfless and heroic service exhibited by these sentinels of the republic in defense of American democracy in responding to the January 6, 2021 assault on the U.S. Capitol by domestic terrorists.

This tribute is, as President Lincoln noted at Gettysburg, “altogether fitting and proper” for heroes of the republic.

The action we are taking today should encourage all educational and media institutions throughout the United States to teach and celebrate the story of the heroism of the officers

of the United States Capitol Police Department, the Metropolitan Police Department, and all other law enforcement officers who, out of true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, selflessly risked their lives to protect the Capitol Building and its personnel, the Congress, and the spirit and fact of democracy in America.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Americans to read, celebrate, and revere the Constitution of the United States, fidelity to which is the surest best means of forming a more perfect union, establishing justice, ensuring domestic tranquility, providing for the common defense, promoting the general welfare, and securing the blessing of liberty to them and their posterity.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I think this is a special moment for the House in a very tough year for us to pause and to say thank you to those men and women who stand guard over this institution; not just this building, not just this campus, but the people who work here every day.

It is not Members; it is staff that are here every day. It is the people that make the Capitol work physically. It is the folks who are at the daycare, the folks who are in the press. They are the folks who are frequent visitors here, such that they feel like they work here, too.

It is the Capitol Police that keep us safe not from one another, but safe from the harms that can happen in a very dangerous world. And we want to say thank you to the men and women of the Capitol Police for their dedication, for their bravery, for their training every day.

And we honor you not just in word, but with deed; not just with word and this deed of a Congressional Gold Medal, but our ongoing support. Our ongoing support, such that you can operate every day to the best of your training with the best training and tactics available to police and law enforcement anywhere in the world, the best equipment, the best training resources, but also the freedom to use those things in a way that is commensurate with public safety.

So I want to thank the Capitol Police for their service and their sacrifice in making this institution safe; safe so we can debate important things that need to be debated, to disagree, for us to be able to disagree as a civil society, yet still come together for the important things of being friends and neighbors and lovers of this great country.

Madam Speaker, I encourage a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I commend Speaker PELOSI for bringing forward this legislation.

Every day, the brave men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police put their lives on the line in service to our Nation.

On January 6, we all witnessed this bravery firsthand as they fought

against those who would seek to end this democracy. It is true that the leadership and decisive action on that day saved many lives, including my own. We honor their sacrifices on that day, and every day we thank them for their service.

Madam Speaker and Members, I cannot help but say at this time where this bill is being discussed on the floor of the House of Representatives, I saw Capitol Police in hand-to-hand combat with these insurrectionists. I saw them being attacked by QAnon, by the proud boys, by the oath keepers, by the KKK, by white supremacists. I thought I would never see such in my lifetime.

I watched Capitol Police being attacked with the American flag jabbed into their bodies. I never thought those who considered themselves conservative would attack uniformed police officers of the Capitol or any place, but we saw it.

So we can't say enough about these Capitol Police, whose lives were endangered and some who lost their lives and some who are still trying to recuperate from the injuries that they received.

I am absolutely saddened by the fact that too many do not want to know what really happened that day, who oppose investigation, oppose a commission to delve into exactly what took place, who was responsible, who organized it, who paid for it, et cetera.

I could go on all day and night talking about that experience, as many Members of Congress perhaps would like to do, but I know that, despite the fact, there is opposition to delving into what happened. We are going to find out what happened. We are going to find out who supported all of the resources that were put together to bring people here in buses and put them on airplanes to come and attack us in the Capitol of the United States of America.

So I urge all Members to honor the sacrifices and courage displayed by the members of the Capitol Police, the Metropolitan Police, and other law enforcement agencies by voting "yes" on H.R. 3325.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3325, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS CERTAIN BILLS

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 8 of House Resolution 473, I move to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 293, H.R. 587, H.R. 610, H.R. 1144, H.R. 1703, H.R. 1921, H.R. 2008, H.R. 2332, H.R. 2545, and H.R. 3642.

The Clerk read the title of the bills. The text of the bills are as follows:

VA HOSPITALS ESTABLISHING LEADERSHIP PERFORMANCE ACT
H.R. 293

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "VA Hospitals Establishing Leadership Performance Act".

SEC. 2. QUALIFICATIONS FOR HUMAN RESOURCES POSITIONS WITHIN THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) establish qualifications for each human resources position within the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(2) establish standardized performance metrics for each such position; and

(3) submit to Congress a report containing the qualifications and standardized performance metrics established under paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the establishment of the qualifications and performance metrics under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate a report containing—

(1) a description of the implementation of such qualifications and performance metrics; and

(2) an assessment of the quality of such qualifications and performance metrics.

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated.

OCEAN POLLUTION REDUCTION ACT II
H.R. 587

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II".

SEC. 2. SAN DIEGO POINT LOMA PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Administrator may issue a permit under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) for a discharge from the Point Loma Plant into marine waters that requires compliance with the requirements described in subsection (b).

(b) CONDITIONS.—A permit issued under this section shall require—

(1) maintenance of the currently designed deep ocean outfall from the Point Loma Plant with a discharge depth of not less than 300 feet and distance from the shore of not less than 4 miles;

(2) as applicable to the term of the permit, discharge of not more than 12,000 metric tons of total suspended solids per year commencing on the date of enactment of this section, not more than 11,500 metric tons of total suspended solids per year commencing on December 31, 2025, and not more than 9,942 metric tons of total suspended solids per year commencing on December 31, 2027;

(3) discharge of not more than 60 milligrams per liter of total suspended solids, calculated as a 30-day average;

(4) removal of not less than 80 percent of total suspended solids on a monthly average and not less than 58 percent of biochemical oxygen demand on an annual average, taking into account removal occurring at all treatment processes for wastewater upstream from and at the Point Loma Plant;

(5) attainment of all other effluent limitations of secondary treatment as determined by the Administrator pursuant to section 304(d)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1314(d)(1)), other than any requirements otherwise applicable to the discharge of biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids;

(6) compliance with the requirements applicable to Federal issuance of a permit under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, including State concurrence consistent with section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341) and ocean discharge criteria evaluation pursuant to section 403 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1343);

(7) implementation of the pretreatment program requirements of paragraphs (5) and (6) of section 301(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(h)) in addition to the requirements of section 402(b)(8) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(b)(8));

(8) that the applicant provide 10 consecutive years of ocean monitoring data and analysis for the period immediately preceding the date of each application for a permit under this section sufficient to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Administrator that the discharge of pollutants pursuant to a permit issued under this section will meet the requirements of section 301(h)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(h)(2)) and that the applicant has established and will maintain throughout the permit term an ocean monitoring program that meets or exceeds the requirements of section 301(h)(3) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(h)(3)); and

(9) to the extent potable reuse is permitted by Federal and State regulatory agencies, that the applicant demonstrate that at least 83,000,000 gallons per day on an annual average of water suitable for potable reuse will be produced by December 31, 2035, taking into account production of water suitable for potable reuse occurring at all treatment processes for wastewater upstream from and at the Point Loma Plant.

(c) MILESTONES.—The Administrator shall determine development milestones necessary to ensure compliance with this section and include such milestones as conditions in each permit issued under this section before December 31, 2035.

(d) SECONDARY TREATMENT.—Nothing in this section prevents the applicant from alternatively submitting an application for the Point Loma Plant that complies with secondary treatment pursuant to section 301(b)(1)(B) and section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(b)(1)(B); 33 U.S.C. 1342).

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND.—The term “biochemical oxygen demand” means

biological oxygen demand, as such term is used in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

(3) POINT LOMA PLANT.—The term “Point Loma Plant” means the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant owned by the City of San Diego on the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of California.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION ACT

H.R. 610

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “San Francisco Bay Restoration Act”.

SEC. 2. SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM.

Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 124. SAN FRANCISCO BAY RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘Estuary Partnership’ means the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, designated as the management conference for the San Francisco Bay under section 320.

“(2) SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN.—The term ‘San Francisco Bay Plan’ means—

“(A) until the date of the completion of the plan developed by the Director under subsection (d), the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved under section 320 for the San Francisco Bay estuary; and

“(B) on and after the date of the completion of the plan developed by the Director under subsection (d), the plan developed by the Director under subsection (d).

“(b) PROGRAM OFFICE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish in the Environmental Protection Agency a San Francisco Bay Program Office. The Office shall be located at the headquarters of Region 9 of the Environmental Protection Agency.

“(2) APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR.—The Administrator shall appoint a Director of the Office, who shall have management experience and technical expertise relating to the San Francisco Bay and be highly qualified to direct the development and implementation of projects, activities, and studies necessary to implement the San Francisco Bay Plan.

“(3) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY; STAFFING.—The Administrator shall delegate to the Director such authority and provide such staff as may be necessary to carry out this section.

“(c) ANNUAL PRIORITY LIST.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—After providing public notice, the Director shall annually compile a priority list, consistent with the San Francisco Bay Plan, identifying and prioritizing the projects, activities, and studies to be carried out with amounts made available under subsection (e).

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—The annual priority list compiled under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) Projects, activities, and studies, including restoration projects and habitat improvement for fish, waterfowl, and wildlife, that advance the goals and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Plan, for—

“(i) water quality improvement, including the reduction of marine litter;

“(ii) wetland, riverine, and estuary restoration and protection;

“(iii) nearshore and endangered species recovery; and

“(iv) adaptation to climate change.

“(B) Information on the projects, activities, and studies specified under subparagraph (A), including—

“(i) the identity of each entity receiving assistance pursuant to subsection (e); and

“(ii) a description of the communities to be served.

“(C) The criteria and methods established by the Director for identification of projects, activities, and studies to be included on the annual priority list.

“(3) CONSULTATION.—In compiling the annual priority list under paragraph (1), the Director shall consult with, and consider the recommendations of—

“(A) the Estuary Partnership;

“(B) the State of California and affected local governments in the San Francisco Bay estuary watershed;

“(C) the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority; and

“(D) any other relevant stakeholder involved with the protection and restoration of the San Francisco Bay estuary that the Director determines to be appropriate.

“(d) SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Director, in conjunction with the Estuary Partnership, shall review and revise the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved under section 320 for the San Francisco Bay estuary to develop a plan to guide the projects, activities, and studies of the Office to address the restoration and protection of the San Francisco Bay.

“(2) REVISION OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY PLAN.—Not less often than once every 5 years after the date of the completion of the plan described in paragraph (1), the Director shall review, and revise as appropriate, the San Francisco Bay Plan.

“(3) OUTREACH.—In carrying out this subsection, the Director shall consult with the Estuary Partnership and Indian tribes and solicit input from other non-Federal stakeholders.

“(e) GRANT PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may provide funding through cooperative agreements, grants, or other means to State and local agencies, special districts, and public or nonprofit agencies, institutions, and organizations, including the Estuary Partnership, for projects, activities, and studies identified on the annual priority list compiled under subsection (c).

“(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS; NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

“(A) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—Amounts provided to any entity under this section for a fiscal year shall not exceed an amount equal to 75 percent of the total cost of any projects, activities, and studies that are to be carried out using those amounts.

“(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—Not less than 25 percent of the cost of any project, activity, or study carried out using amounts provided under this section shall be provided from non-Federal sources.

“(f) FUNDING.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

“(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year, the Director may not use more than 5 percent to pay administrative expenses incurred in carrying out this section.

“(3) PROHIBITION.—No amounts made available under this section may be used for the administration of a management conference under section 320.

“(g) ANNUAL BUDGET PLAN.—For each of the budgets for fiscal years 2023 through 2026, the President, as part of the annual budget

submission of the President to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall submit information regarding each Federal department and agency involved in San Francisco Bay protection and restoration, including—

“(1) a report that displays for each Federal agency—

“(A) the amounts obligated in the preceding fiscal year for protection and restoration projects, activities, and studies relating to the San Francisco Bay; and

“(B) the proposed budget for protection and restoration projects, activities, and studies relating to the San Francisco Bay; and

“(2) a description and assessment of the Federal role in the implementation of the San Francisco Bay Plan and the specific role of each Federal department and agency involved in San Francisco Bay protection and restoration, including specific projects, activities, and studies conducted or planned to achieve the identified goals and objectives of the San Francisco Bay Plan.”.

PROMOTING UNITED GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO
SAVE OUR SOUND ACT

H.R. 1144

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound Act” or the “PUGET SOS Act”.

SEC. 2. PUGET SOUND COORDINATED RECOVERY.

Title I of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 124. PUGET SOUND.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COASTAL NONPOINT POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM.—The term ‘Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program’ means the State of Washington’s Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program approved under section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990.

“(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Program Office.

“(3) FEDERAL ACTION PLAN.—The term ‘Federal Action Plan’ means the plan developed under subsection (c)(3)(B).

“(4) INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION.—The term ‘International Joint Commission’ means the International Joint Commission established by the Treaty relating to the boundary waters and questions arising along the boundary between the United States and Canada, signed at Washington January 11, 1909, and entered into force May 5, 1910 (36 Stat. 2448; TS 548; 12 Bevans 319).

“(5) PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION.—The term ‘Pacific Salmon Commission’ means the Pacific Salmon Commission established by the United States and Canada under the Treaty concerning Pacific salmon, with annexes and memorandum of understanding, signed at Ottawa January 28, 1985, and entered into force March 18, 1985 (TIAS 11091; 1469 UNTS 357) (commonly known as the ‘Pacific Salmon Treaty’).

“(6) PROGRAM OFFICE.—The term ‘Program Office’ means the Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office established by subsection (b).

“(7) PUGET SOUND ACTION AGENDA; ACTION AGENDA.—The term ‘Puget Sound Action Agenda’ or ‘Action Agenda’ means the most recent plan developed by the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference, in consultation with the Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference, and approved by the Administrator as the comprehensive conservation and management plan for the Puget Sound under section 320.

“(8) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE.—The term ‘Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force’ means the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force established under subsection (c).

“(9) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL TASK FORCE.—The term ‘Puget Sound Federal Task Force’ means the Puget Sound Federal Task Force established in 2016 under a memorandum of understanding among 9 Federal agencies.

“(10) PUGET SOUND NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.—The term ‘Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference’ means the management conference for the Puget Sound convened pursuant to section 320.

“(11) PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘Puget Sound Partnership’ means the State agency created under the laws of the State of Washington (section 90.71.210 of the Revised Code of Washington), or its successor agency that has been designated by the Administrator as the lead entity to support the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference.

“(12) PUGET SOUND REGION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘Puget Sound region’ means the land and waters in the northwest corner of the State of Washington from the Canadian border to the north to the Pacific Ocean on the west, including Hood Canal and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

“(B) INCLUSION.—The term ‘Puget Sound region’ includes all watersheds that drain into the Puget Sound.

“(13) PUGET SOUND TRIBAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.—The term ‘Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference’ means the 20 treaty Indian tribes of western Washington and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

“(14) SALISH SEA.—The term ‘Salish Sea’ means the network of coastal waterways on the west coast of North America that includes the Puget Sound, the Strait of Georgia, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

“(15) SALMON RECOVERY PLANS.—The term ‘Salmon Recovery Plans’ means the recovery plans for salmon and steelhead species approved by the Secretary of the Interior under section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 that are applicable to the Puget Sound region.

“(16) STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term ‘State Advisory Committee’ means the advisory committee established by subsection (d).

“(17) TREATY RIGHTS AT RISK INITIATIVE.—The term ‘Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative’ means the report from the treaty Indian tribes of western Washington entitled ‘Treaty Rights At Risk: Ongoing Habitat Loss, the Decline of the Salmon Resource, and Recommendations for Change’ and dated July 14, 2011, or its successor report that outlines issues and offers solutions for the protection of Tribal treaty rights, recovery of salmon habitat, and management of sustainable treaty and nontreaty salmon fisheries, including through Tribal salmon hatchery programs.

“(b) PUGET SOUND RECOVERY NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Environmental Protection Agency a Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office, to be located in the State of Washington.

“(2) DIRECTOR.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be a Director of the Program Office, who shall have leadership and project management experience and shall be highly qualified to—

“(i) direct the integration of multiple project planning efforts and programs from different agencies and jurisdictions; and

“(ii) align numerous, and possibly competing, priorities to accomplish visible and

measurable outcomes under the Action Agenda.

“(B) POSITION.—The position of Director of the Program Office shall be a career reserved position, as such term is defined in section 3132 of title 5, United States Code.

“(3) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY; STAFFING.—Using amounts made available pursuant to subsection (h), the Administrator shall delegate to the Director such authority and provide such staff as may be necessary to carry out this section.

“(4) DUTIES.—The Director shall—

“(A) coordinate and manage the timely execution of the requirements of this section, including the formation and meetings of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force;

“(B) coordinate activities related to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound across the Environmental Protection Agency;

“(C) coordinate and align the activities of the Administrator with the Action Agenda, Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program;

“(D) promote the efficient use of Environmental Protection Agency resources in pursuit of the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound;

“(E) serve on the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force and collaborate with, help coordinate, and implement activities with other Federal agencies that have responsibilities involving the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound;

“(F) provide or procure such other advice, technical assistance, research, assessments, monitoring, or other support as is determined by the Director to be necessary or prudent to most efficiently and effectively fulfill the objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, consistent with the best available science, to ensure the health of the Puget Sound ecosystem;

“(G) track the progress of the Environmental Protection Agency towards meeting the agency’s specified objectives and priorities within the Action Agenda and the Federal Action Plan;

“(H) implement the recommendations of the Comptroller General set forth in the report entitled ‘Puget Sound Restoration: Additional Actions Could Improve Assessments of Progress’ and dated July 19, 2018;

“(I) serve as liaison and coordinate activities for the restoration and protection of the Salish Sea with Canadian authorities, the Pacific Salmon Commission, and the International Joint Commission; and

“(J) carry out such additional duties as the Director determines necessary and appropriate.

“(c) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(A) COMPOSITION.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

“(i) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture:

“(I) A representative of the National Forest Service.

“(II) A representative of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

“(ii) A representative of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration appointed by the Secretary of Commerce.

“(iii) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Defense:

“(I) A representative of the Corps of Engineers.

“(II) A representative of the Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

“(III) A representative of the Commander, Navy Region Northwest.

“(iv) The Director of the Program Office.

“(v) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Homeland Security:

“(I) A representative of the Coast Guard.

“(II) A representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(vi) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of the Interior:

“(I) A representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

“(II) A representative of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

“(III) A representative of the United States Geological Survey.

“(IV) A representative of the National Park Service.

“(vii) The following individuals appointed by the Secretary of Transportation:

“(I) A representative of the Federal Highway Administration.

“(II) A representative of the Federal Transit Administration.

“(viii) Representatives of such other Federal agencies, programs, and initiatives as the other members of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force determines necessary.

“(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members appointed under this paragraph shall have experience and expertise in matters of restoration and protection of large watersheds and bodies of water, or related experience that will benefit the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

“(C) CO-CHAIRS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The following members of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force:

“(I) The representative of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(II) The Director of the Program Office.

“(III) The representative of the Corps of Engineers.

“(ii) LEADERSHIP.—The Co-Chairs shall ensure the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force completes its duties through robust discussion of all relevant issues. The Co-Chairs shall share leadership responsibilities equally.

“(3) DUTIES.—

“(A) GENERAL DUTIES.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall—

“(i) uphold Federal trust responsibilities to restore and protect resources crucial to Tribal treaty rights, including by carrying out government-to-government consultation with Indian tribes when requested by such tribes;

“(ii) provide a venue for dialogue and coordination across all Federal agencies represented by a member of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force to align Federal resources for the purposes of carrying out the requirements of this section and all other Federal laws that contribute to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound, including by—

“(I) enabling and encouraging such agencies to act consistently with the objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program;

“(II) facilitating the coordination of Federal activities that impact such restoration and protection;

“(III) facilitating the delivery of feedback given by such agencies to the Puget Sound Partnership during the development of the Action Agenda;

“(IV) facilitating the resolution of inter-agency conflicts associated with such restoration and protection among such agencies;

“(V) providing a forum for exchanging information among such agencies regarding activities being conducted, including obstacles or efficiencies found, during restoration and protection activities; and

“(VI) promoting the efficient use of government resources in pursuit of such restoration and protection through coordination and collaboration, including by ensuring that the Federal efforts relating to the science necessary for such restoration and protection are consistent, and not duplicative, across the Federal Government;

“(iii) catalyze public leaders at all levels to work together toward shared goals by demonstrating interagency best practices coming from such agencies;

“(iv) provide advice and support on scientific and technical issues and act as a forum for the exchange of scientific information about the Puget Sound;

“(v) identify and inventory Federal environmental research and monitoring programs related to the Puget Sound, and provide such inventory to the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference;

“(vi) ensure that Puget Sound restoration and protection activities are as consistent as practicable with ongoing restoration and protection and related efforts in the Salish Sea that are being conducted by Canadian authorities, the Pacific Salmon Commission, and the International Joint Commission;

“(vii) ensure that Puget Sound restoration and protection activities are consistent with national security interests;

“(viii) establish any working groups or committees necessary to assist the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force in its duties, including relating to public policy and scientific issues; and

“(ix) raise national awareness of the significance of the Puget Sound.

“(B) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL ACTION PLAN.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall develop and approve a Federal Action Plan that leverages Federal programs across agencies and serves to coordinate diverse programs and priorities for the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

“(ii) REVISION OF PUGET SOUND FEDERAL ACTION PLAN.—Not less often than once every 5 years after the date of approval of the Federal Action Plan under clause (i), the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall review, and revise as appropriate, the Federal Action Plan.

“(C) FEEDBACK BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In facilitating feedback under subparagraph (A)(ii)(III), the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall request Federal agencies to consider, at a minimum, possible Federal actions within the Puget Sound region designed to—

“(i) further the goals, targets, and actions of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program;

“(ii) as applicable, implement and enforce this Act, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and all other Federal laws that contribute to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound, including those that protect Tribal treaty rights;

“(iii) prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species;

“(iv) protect marine and wildlife habitats;

“(v) protect, restore, and conserve forests, wetlands, riparian zones, and nearshore waters;

“(vi) promote resilience to climate change and ocean acidification effects;

“(vii) restore fisheries so that they are sustainable and productive;

“(viii) preserve biodiversity;

“(ix) restore and protect ecosystem services that provide clean water, filter toxic chemicals, and increase ecosystem resilience; and

“(x) improve water quality, including by preventing and managing stormwater runoff, incorporating erosion control techniques and trash capture devices, using sustainable stormwater practices, and mitigating and minimizing nonpoint source pollution, including marine litter.

“(4) PARTICIPATION OF STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PUGET SOUND TRIBAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall carry out its duties with input from, and in collaboration with, the State Advisory Committee and the Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference, including by seeking advice and recommendations on the actions, progress, and issues pertaining to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

“(5) MEETINGS.—

“(A) INITIAL MEETING.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall meet not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section—

“(i) to determine if all Federal agencies are properly represented;

“(ii) to establish the bylaws of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force;

“(iii) to establish necessary working groups or committees; and

“(iv) to determine subsequent meeting times, dates, and logistics.

“(B) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—After the initial meeting, the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall meet, at a minimum, twice per year to carry out the duties of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

“(C) WORKING GROUP MEETINGS.—A meeting of any established working group or committee of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall not be considered a biannual meeting for purposes of subparagraph (B).

“(D) JOINT MEETINGS.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force—

“(i) shall offer to meet jointly with the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference and the Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference, at a minimum, once per year; and

“(ii) may consider such a joint meeting to be a biannual meeting of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force for purposes of subparagraph (B).

“(E) QUORUM.—A simple majority of the members of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall constitute a quorum.

“(F) VOTING.—For the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force to take an official action, a quorum shall be present, and at least a two-thirds majority of the members present shall vote in the affirmative.

“(6) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE PROCEDURES AND ADVICE.—

“(A) ADVISORS.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force may seek advice and input from any interested, knowledgeable, or affected party as the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force determines necessary to perform its duties.

“(B) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall receive no additional compensation for service as a member on the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

“(C) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Travel expenses incurred by a member of the Puget Sound

Federal Leadership Task Force in the performance of service on the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force may be paid by the agency that the member represents.

“(7) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL TASK FORCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—On the date of enactment of this section, the 2016 memorandum of understanding establishing the Puget Sound Federal Task Force shall cease to be effective.

“(B) USE OF PREVIOUS WORK.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall, to the extent practicable, use the work product produced, relied upon, and analyzed by the Puget Sound Federal Task Force in order to avoid duplicating the efforts of the Puget Sound Federal Task Force.

“(d) STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a State Advisory Committee.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The State Advisory Committee shall consist of up to seven members designated by the governing body of the Puget Sound Partnership, in consultation with the Governor of Washington, who will represent Washington State agencies that have significant roles and responsibilities related to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

“(e) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, State Advisory Committee, and any working group or committee of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, shall not be considered an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

“(f) PUGET SOUND FEDERAL LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE BIENNIAL REPORT ON PUGET SOUND RESTORATION AND PROTECTION ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and biennially thereafter, the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, in collaboration with the Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference and the State Advisory Committee, shall submit to the President, Congress, the Governor of Washington, and the governing body of the Puget Sound Partnership a report that summarizes the progress, challenges, and milestones of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force relating to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the following:

“(A) The roles and progress of each State, local government entity, and Federal agency that has jurisdiction in the Puget Sound region relating to meeting the identified objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

“(B) If available, the roles and progress of Tribal governments that have jurisdiction in the Puget Sound region relating to meeting the identified objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

“(C) A summary of specific recommendations concerning implementation of the Action Agenda and the Federal Action Plan, including challenges, barriers, and anticipated milestones, targets, and timelines.

“(D) A summary of progress made by Federal agencies toward the priorities identified in the Federal Action Plan.

“(g) CROSSCUT BUDGET REPORT.—

“(1) FINANCIAL REPORT.—As soon as practicable, but not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation

with the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, shall, in conjunction with the annual budget submission of the President to Congress for the year under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, submit to Congress and make available to the public, including on the internet, a financial report that is certified by the head of each agency represented by a member of the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall contain an interagency crosscut budget relating to Puget Sound restoration and protection activities that displays—

“(A) the proposed funding for any Federal restoration and protection activity to be carried out in the succeeding fiscal year, including any planned interagency or intra-agency transfer, for each of the Federal agencies that carry out restoration and protection activities;

“(B) the estimated expenditures for Federal restoration and protection activities from the preceding 2 fiscal years, the current fiscal year, and the succeeding fiscal year; and

“(C) the estimated expenditures for Federal environmental research and monitoring programs from the preceding 2 fiscal years, the current fiscal year, and the succeeding fiscal year.

“(3) INCLUDED RECOVERY ACTIVITIES.—With respect to activities described in the report, the report shall only describe activities that have a total Federal cost of more than \$100,000.

“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to any other funds authorized to be appropriated for activities related to the Puget Sound, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

“(i) TRIBAL RIGHTS AND CONSULTATION.—

“(1) PRESERVATION OF TRIBAL TREATY RIGHTS.—Nothing in this section affects, or is intended to affect, any right reserved by treaty between the United States and one or more Indian tribes.

“(2) CONSULTATION.—Nothing in this section affects any authorization or obligation of a Federal agency to consult with an Indian tribe under any other provision of law.

“(j) CONSISTENCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Actions authorized or implemented under this section shall be consistent with—

“(A) the Salmon Recovery Plans;

“(B) the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program; and

“(C) the water quality standards of the State of Washington approved by the Administrator under section 303.

“(2) FEDERAL ACTIONS.—All Federal agencies represented on the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force shall act consistently with the protection of Tribal, treaty-reserved rights and, to the greatest extent practicable given such agencies' existing obligations under Federal law, act consistently with the objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda, the Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, when—

“(A) conducting Federal agency activities within or outside the Puget Sound that affect any land or water use or natural resources of the Puget Sound region, including activities performed by a contractor for the benefit of a Federal agency;

“(B) interpreting and enforcing regulations that impact the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound;

“(C) issuing Federal licenses or permits that impact the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound; and

“(D) granting Federal assistance to State, local, and Tribal governments for activities related to the restoration and protection of the Puget Sound.”

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ACT

H.R. 1703

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Children's Museum Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–81) designated the Capital Children's Museum, the predecessor to the National Children's Museum, as the “National Children's Museum”;

(2) the National Children's Museum operates under section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is organized under the laws of the District of Columbia;

(3) the mission of the National Children's Museum is to inspire children to care about and change the world; and

(4) the National Children's Museum is located in the federally owned Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

(b) NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM.—Chapter 67 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 6735. National Children's Museum

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of General Services shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children's Museum for the operation of the National Children's Museum in the approximately 32,369 square feet of space commonly known as suite C–001 (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Space’) of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center for the duration of the retail space license agreement between Trade Center Management Associates, LLC, or a successor entity, and the Museum, dated December 4, 2017, including any exercised renewal options.

“(b) CONTENTS.—The cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall include provisions that—

“(1) require, for the period in which the General Services Administration owns or controls the Space, the General Services Administration to provide rent for the Space;

“(2) terminate such agreement if—

“(A) the Museum does not continue to qualify as a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

“(B) the Museum no longer uses the Space as a children's museum; and

“(3) prohibits the Museum from transferring the interest in such agreement.

“(c) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—To carry out this section, the Administrator shall use funds derived from—

“(1) the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation fund; or

“(2) the International Trade Center fund.

“(d) REPORT.—The cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall require the National Children's Museum to submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate an annual report on the operations and finances of the Museum.”

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 67 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“‘6735. National Children's Museum.’”

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

AMENDING THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT TO REAUTHORIZE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM

H.R. 1921

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) **REVIEW OF COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—Section 121 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1273) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) ensure that the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved for the Basin under section 320 is reviewed and revised in accordance with section 320 not less often than once every 5 years, beginning on the date of enactment of this paragraph.”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “recommended by a management conference convened for the Basin under section 320” and inserting “identified in the comprehensive conservation and management plan approved for the Basin under section 320”.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 121(e)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1273(e)(1)) is amended by striking “, a 5,000 square mile”.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 121(f) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1273(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “2001 through 2012 and the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2009 for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2017” and inserting “2022 through 2026”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—The Administrator may use for administrative expenses not more than 5 percent of the amounts appropriated to carry out this section.”.

LOCAL WATER PROTECTION ACT

H.R. 2008

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Local Water Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.

Section 319(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1329(j)) is amended by striking “subsections (h) and (i) not to exceed” and all that follows through “fiscal year 1991” and inserting “subsections (h) and (i) \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026”.

DEBT BONDAGE REPAIR ACT

H.R. 2332

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Debt Bondage Repair Act”.

SEC. 2. ADVERSE INFORMATION IN CASES OF TRAFFICKING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 605B the following:

“§ 605C Adverse information in cases of trafficking

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—A consumer reporting agency may not furnish a consumer report containing any adverse item of information about a consumer that resulted from a severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking if the consumer has provided trafficking documentation to the consumer reporting agency.

“(b) **RULEMAKING.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director shall, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, issue a rule to implement subsection (a).

“(2) **CONTENTS.**—The rule issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall establish a method by which consumers shall submit trafficking documentation to consumer reporting agencies.

“(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—

“(1) **TRAFFICKING DOCUMENTATION.**—The term trafficking documentation means—

“(A) documentation of either—

“(i) a determination by a Federal or State government entity that a consumer is a victim of trafficking; or

“(ii) a determination by a court of competent jurisdiction that a consumer is a victim of trafficking; and

“(B) documentation that identifies items of adverse information that should not be furnished by a consumer reporting agency because the items resulted from the severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking of which such consumer is a victim.

“(2) **VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING.**—For the purposes of this section, the term “victim of trafficking” means a person who is a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking, as such terms are defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents of the Fair Credit Reporting Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 605B the following new item:

“605C. Adverse information in cases of trafficking.”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection issues a rule pursuant to section 605C(b) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

(d) **DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**—The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

CLARIFYING ROLE OF DOCTORS OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

H.R. 2545

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ROLE OF DOCTORS OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **CLARIFICATION OF ROLE.**—Section 7306 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking “a Director of Podiatric Service.”;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (10) as paragraph (11); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following new paragraph:

“(10) A Podiatric Medical Director, who shall be a qualified doctor of podiatric medicine and who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary for Health for the operation of the Podiatric Service.”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “podiatric medicine,” after “doctors of medicine.”; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “and (8)” and inserting “(8), and (10)”.

(b) **CLARIFICATION OF PAY GRADE.**—Section 7404 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting “, podiatrists,” after “physicians”; and

(2) in subsection (b), in the first heading of the list following the colon, by striking “PODIATRIST” and inserting “PODIATRIST (DPM)”.

HARLEM HELFIGHTERS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

H.R. 3642

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) When the United States officially entered World War I in April 1917, the Armed Forces were still segregated, even though African-American soldiers had served and distinguished themselves in every war since the Revolutionary War, and even the Colonial Wars preceding the American Revolution.

(2) After several years of advocacy and debate, in 1916 the State of New York authorized the recruitment of the 15th New York National Guard Regiment, which was called to Federal service on July 25, 1917, soon after arriving for training at Camp Whitman, New York.

(3) The 15th completed its basic military practice training at Camp Whitman, New York.

(4) To receive combat training, the 15th reported, on October 8, 1917, to Camp Wadsworth, in Spartanburg, South Carolina, where it experienced many incidents of racial discrimination.

(5) Consequently, the government agreed to remove the 15th from Camp Wadsworth, but, instead of receiving further training, the regiment began preparing for deployment to France in November.

(6) The 15th arrived in Saint Nazaire, France, on January 1, 1918, where it was redesignated the 369th Infantry Regiment.

(7) Partly because many White soldiers within the American Expeditionary Forces (hereinafter, the “AEF”) refused to perform combat duty with Black soldiers, members of the 369th were initially assigned manual labor tasks, such as loading and unloading supplies, and constructing roads and railroads.

(8) After receiving pressure from the 369th regimental commander about not having a combat mission, the AEF attached the 369th to the French Fourth Army.

(9) By mid-March of 1918, the 369th went to the Argonne Forest with the French 16th Division for training and soon entered the trenches.

(10) The 369th encountered its first German soldiers in combat in April, 1918.

(11) In May of 1918, Private Henry Johnson of the 369th received the French Croix de

Guerre, with Palm, for extraordinary valor, becoming one of the first American soldiers to be awarded this honor.

(12) Johnson also belatedly received a Purple Heart, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, and in, 2015, was awarded the Medal of Honor.

(13) Throughout the remainder of the spring and into the summer the 369th served at Minacourt, in the Champagne-Marne Defensive, and during the Aisne-Marne Offensive in support of the French 161st Infantry Division.

(14) As summer turned to autumn, the 369th went on to participate in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, where it captured the important village of Sechault despite sustaining severe losses.

(15) On October 14, 1918, the 369th advanced to Alsace.

(16) On November 20, 1918, the 369th reached the banks of the Rhine River as part of the French Army of Occupation, the first Allied unit to do so.

(17) The 369th was relieved of its assignment with the French 161st Division in December, 1918, and elements of the regiment sailed for New York in late January and early February, 1919.

(18) The 369th Infantry Regiment received a parade up 5th Avenue in New York City on February 17, 1919, receiving applause and cheers from hundreds of thousands of on-lookers.

(19) The 369th was demobilized on February 28, 1919.

(20) Over 170 individual members of the 369th received the Croix de Guerre, many were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, and the 369th was awarded a unit citation.

(21) It is generally believed that the 369th was dubbed the “Harlem Hellfighters” by German soldiers, who found the men to be incredibly determined and courageous in battle.

(22) The 369th was the first regiment of African Americans to deploy overseas during World War I and spent 191 days on the front line in World War I, more than any other American regimental sized unit.

(23) The 369th never lost a foot of ground nor had a man taken prisoner, despite suffering a high number of casualties.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to the 369th Infantry Regiment, commonly known as the “Harlem Hellfighters”, in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service during World War I.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the 369th Infantry Regiment, the “Harlem Hellfighters”, the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it will be displayed as appropriate and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly at other locations associated with the Harlem Hellfighters.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the bronze medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALES.—The amounts received from the sale of duplicate medals under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

(c) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

The gold medal struck pursuant to this Act is a national medal for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 6. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to section 8 of House Resolution 473, the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions to suspend the rules with respect to such measures is vacated to the end that all such motions are considered as withdrawn.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bills.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 287, nays 140, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 159]

YEAS—287

Adams	Cheney	Espallat
Agullar	Chu	Evans
Allred	Cicilline	Feenstra
Auchincloss	Clark (MA)	Fitzpatrick
Axne	Clarke (NY)	Fletcher
Bacon	Cleaver	Fortenberry
Barr	Clyburn	Foster
Barragán	Cohen	Frankel, Lois
Bass	Cole	Gallagher
Beatty	Comer	Gallego
Bera	Connolly	Garamendi
Beyer	Cooper	Garbarino
Bice (OK)	Correa	Garcia (CA)
Bishop (GA)	Costa	Garcia (IL)
Blumenauer	Courtney	Garcia (TX)
Blunt Rochester	Craig	Gimenez
Bonamici	Crist	Golden
Bost	Crow	Gomez
Bourdeaux	Cuellar	Gonzales, Tony
Bowman	Davids (KS)	Gonzalez (OH)
Boyle, Brendan F.	Davis, Danny K.	Gonzalez, Vicente
Brown	Davis, Rodney	Gottheimer
Brownley	Dean	Granger
Buchanan	DeGette	Budd
Bush	DeLauro	Graves (LA)
Bustos	DeBene	Graves (MO)
Butterfield	Delgado	Green, Al (TX)
Carbajal	Demings	Griffith
Cárdenas	DeSaulnier	Grijalva
Carson	Deuch	Guthrie
Carter (LA)	Diaz-Balart	Harder (CA)
Cartwright	Dingell	Hayes
Case	Doggett	Higgins (NY)
Casten	Doyle, Michael F.	Hill
Castor (FL)	Escobar	Himes
Castro (TX)	Eshoo	Hinson
		Hollingsworth

Horsford	McCollum	Schiff
Houlahan	McEachin	Schneider
Hoyer	McGovern	Schrader
Hudson	McHenry	Schrier
Huffman	McKinley	Scott (VA)
Issa	McNerney	Scott, David
Jackson Lee	Meeks	Sewell
Jacobs (CA)	Meijer	Sherman
Jacobs (NY)	Meng	Sherrill
Jayapal	Meuser	Simpson
Jeffries	Mfume	Sires
Johnson (GA)	Miller-Meeks	Slotkin
Johnson (TX)	Moolenaar	Smith (NE)
Jones	Moore (WI)	Smith (NJ)
Joyce (OH)	Morelle	Smith (WA)
Kahele	Moulton	Smucker
Kaptur	Mrvan	Soto
Katko	Mullin	Spanberger
Keating	Murphy (FL)	Speier
Kelly (IL)	Murphy (NC)	Stansbury
Khanna	Nadler	Stanton
Kildee	Napolitano	Steel
Kilmer	Neal	Stevens
Kim (CA)	Neguse	Strickland
Kim (NJ)	Newhouse	Suozi
Kind	Newman	Swalwell
Kinzinger	Norcross	Takano
Kirkpatrick	O'Halleran	Thompson (CA)
Krishnamoorthi	Oberholte	Thompson (MS)
Kuster	Ocasio-Cortez	Thompson (PA)
Lamb	Omar	Titus
Lamborn	Pallone	Tlaib
Langevin	Panetta	Tonko
Larsen (WA)	Pappas	Torres (CA)
Larson (CT)	Pascrell	Torres (NY)
Lawrence	Payne	Trahan
Lawson (FL)	Perlmutter	Trone
Lee (CA)	Peters	Underwood
Lee (NV)	Phillips	Upton
Leger Fernandez	Pingree	Valadao
Letlow	Pocan	Van Drew
Levin (CA)	Porter	Vargas
Levin (MI)	Pressley	Veasey
Lieu	Price (NC)	Vela
Lofgren	Quigley	Velázquez
Lowenthal	Raskin	Wagner
Lucas	Reed	Waltz
Luetkemeyer	Reschenthaler	Wasserman
Luria	Rice (NY)	Schultz
Lynch	Ross	Waters
Mace	Rouzer	Watson Coleman
Malinowski	Roybal-Allard	Welch
Malliotakis	Ruiz	Wexton
Maloney,	Ruppersberger	Wild
Carolyn B.	Rush	Williams (GA)
Maloney, Sean	Ryan	Wilson (FL)
Manning	Salazar	Womack
Matsui	Sánchez	Yarmuth
McBath	Sarbanes	Young
McCarthy	Scanlon	
McCaul	Schakowsky	

NAYS—140

Allen	Crawford	Harshbarger
Amodei	Crenshaw	Hartzler
Armstrong	Curtis	Hern
Arrington	Davidson	Herrell
Babin	DesJarlais	Herrera Beutler
Baird	Donalds	Hice (GA)
Balderson	Duncan	Higgins (LA)
Banks	Dunn	Huizenga
Bentz	Emmer	Jackson
Bergman	Estes	Johnson (LA)
Biggs	Fallon	Johnson (OH)
Bilirakis	Ferguson	Johnson (SD)
Bishop (NC)	Fischbach	Jordan
Boebert	Fitzgerald	Joyce (PA)
Brady	Fleischmann	Keller
Brooks	Fox	Kelly (MS)
Buck	Franklin, C.	Kelly (PA)
Bucshon	Scott	Kustoff
Budd	Fulcher	LaHood
Burchett	Gaetz	LaMalfa
Burgess	Gibbs	Latta
Calvert	Gohmert	LaTurner
Cammack	Good (VA)	Lesko
Carl	Gooden (TX)	Long
Carter (GA)	Gosar	Loudermilk
Carter (TX)	Green (TN)	Mann
Cawthorn	Greene (GA)	Massie
Chabot	Grothman	Mast
Cline	Guest	McClain
Cloud	Hagedorn	McClintock
Clyde	Harris	Miller (IL)

Miller (WV)	Rogers (KY)	Taylor
Mooney	Rose	Tenney
Moore (AL)	Rosendale	Tiffany
Moore (UT)	Roy	Timmons
Nehls	Rutherford	Turner
Norman	Scalise	Van Duyne
Nunes	Schweikert	Walberg
Owens	Scott, Austin	Walorski
Palazzo	Sessions	Weber (TX)
Palmer	Smith (MO)	Webster (FL)
Pence	Spartz	Wenstrup
Perry	Stauber	Westerman
Pfleger	Stefanik	Williams (TX)
Posey	Steil	Wilson (SC)
Rice (SC)	Steube	Wittman
Rodgers (WA)	Stewart	Zeldin

NOT VOTING—3

Aderholt	DeFazio	Rogers (AL)
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□ 1645

Messrs. FULCHER, CARL, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. STEFANIK, Messrs. WILLIAMS of Texas, ZELDIN, BUCSHON, BALDERSON, WESTERMAN, BAIRD, MAST, JOHNSON of South Dakota, and TURNER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. WELCH, Ms. GRANGER, Messrs. MURPHY of North Carolina, and SMITH of Nebraska, changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bills were passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE
RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Barragán	Kirkpatrick	Porter (Wexton)
(Gallego)	(Stanton)	Roybal-Allard
Cárdenas	Langevin	(Escobar)
(Gomez)	(Courtney)	Ruiz (Aguilar)
DeSaulnier	Lawson (FL)	Rush
(Thompson)	(Evans)	(Underwood)
(CA)	Lieu (Raskin)	Sewell (DelBene)
Fleischmann	Lowenthal	Sherrill
(Bilirakis)	(Beyer)	(Pallone)
Gaetz (Greene)	Meng (Clark)	Van Drew
(GA)	(MA))	(Norman)
Grijalva (García)	Mfume (Evans)	Velázquez
(IL))	Mullin (Lucas)	(Clarke (NY))
Hoyer (Brown)	Napolitano	Wilson (FL)
Johnson (TX)	(Correa)	(Hayes)
(Jeffries)	Payne (Pallone)	

EQUAL ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION FOR VETERANS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 239) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 240, nays 188, not voting 2, as follows:

[Roll No. 160]

YEAS—240

Adams	Gonzalez,	O'Halleran
Aguilar	Vicente	Obenrolte
Allred	Gottheimer	Ocasio-Cortez
Auchincloss	Green, Al (TX)	Omar
Axne	Grijalva	Pallone
Barragán	Harder (CA)	Panetta
Bass	Hayes	Pappas
Beatty	Higgins (NY)	Pascarell
Bera	Himes	Payne
Beyer	Horsford	Perlmutter
Bishop (GA)	Houlahan	Peters
Blumenauer	Hoyer	Phillips
Blunt Rochester	Huffman	Pingree
Bonamici	Jackson Lee	Pocan
Bost	Jacobs (CA)	Porter
Bourdeaux	Jayapal	Pressley
Bowman	Jeffries	Price (NC)
Boyle, Brendan	Johnson (GA)	Quigley
F.	Johnson (TX)	Raskin
Brown	Jones	Reed
Brownley	Kahele	Rice (NY)
Bush	Kaptur	Ross
Bustos	Katko	Roybal-Allard
Butterfield	Keating	Ruiz
Carbajal	Kelly (IL)	Ruppersberger
Cárdenas	Khanna	Rush
Carson	Kildee	Ryan
Carter (LA)	Kilmer	Salazar
Cartwright	Kim (CA)	Sánchez
Case	Kim (NJ)	Sarbanes
Casten	Kind	Scanlon
Castor (FL)	Kinzinger	Schakowsky
Castro (TX)	Kirkpatrick	Schiff
Chu	Krishnamoorthi	Schneider
Cicilline	Kuster	Schrader
Clark (MA)	Lamb	Schrier
Clarke (NY)	Langevin	Scott (VA)
Cleaver	Larsen (WA)	Scott, David
Clyburn	Larson (CT)	Sewell
Cohen	Lawrence	Sherman
Connolly	Lawson (FL)	Sherrill
Cooper	Lee (CA)	Sires
Correa	Lee (NV)	Slotkin
Costa	Leger Fernandez	Smith (WA)
Courtney	Levin (CA)	Soto
Craig	Levin (MI)	Spanberger
Crenshaw	Lieu	Speier
Crist	Lofgren	Stansbury
Crow	Lowenthal	Stanton
Cuellar	Luria	Steel
Davids (KS)	Lynch	Stevens
Davis, Danny K.	Mace	Strickland
Davis, Rodney	Malinowski	Suozi
Dean	Malliotakis	Swalwell
DeGette	Maloney	Takano
DeLauro	Carolyn B.	Thompson (CA)
DelBene	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (MS)
Delgado	Manning	Titus
Demings	Matsui	Tlaib
DeSaulnier	McBath	Tonko
Deutsch	McCarthy	Torres (CA)
Dingell	McClain	Torres (NY)
Doggett	McCollum	Trahan
Doyle, Michael	McEachin	Trone
F.	McGovern	Underwood
Escobar	McNerney	Upton
Eshoo	Meeks	Van Drew
Españat	Meng	Vargas
Evans	Mfume	Veasey
Fitzpatrick	Miller-Meeks	Vela
Fletcher	Moore (WI)	Velázquez
Foster	Morelle	Wasserman
Frankel, Lois	Moulton	Schultz
Gallego	Mrvan	Waters
Garamendi	Murphy (FL)	Watson Coleman
García (IL)	Nadler	Welch
García (TX)	Napolitano	Wexton
Gimenez	Neal	Wild
Golden	Neguse	Williams (GA)
Gomez	Newhouse	Wilson (FL)
Gonzales, Tony	Newman	Yarmuth
Gonzalez (OH)	Norcross	

NAYS—188

Aderholt	Bergman	Burgess
Allen	Bice (OK)	Calvert
Amodei	Bilirakis	Cammack
Armstrong	Bishop (NC)	Carl
Arrington	Boebert	Carter (GA)
Babin	Brady	Carter (TX)
Bacon	Brooks	Cawthorn
Baird	Buchanan	Chabot
Balderson	Buck	Cheney
Banks	Bucshon	Cline
Barr	Budd	Cloud
Bentz	Burchett	Clyde

Cole	Hinson	Pence
Comer	Hollingsworth	Perry
Crawford	Hudson	Pfleger
Curtis	Huizenga	Posey
Davidson	Issa	Reschenthaler
DesJarlais	Jackson	Rice (SC)
Diaz-Balart	Jacobs (NY)	Rodgers (WA)
Donalds	Johnson (LA)	Rogers (AL)
Duncan	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (KY)
Dunn	Johnson (SD)	Rose
Emmer	Jordan	Rosendale
Estes	Joyce (OH)	Rouzer
Fallon	Joyce (PA)	Roy
Feenstra	Keller	Rutherford
Ferguson	Kelly (MS)	Scalise
Fischbach	Kelly (PA)	Schweikert
Fitzgerald	Kustoff	Scott, Austin
Fleischmann	LaHood	Sessions
Fortenberry	LaMalfa	Simpson
Fox	Lamborn	Smith (MO)
Franklin, C.	Latta	Smith (NE)
Scott	LaTurner	Smith (NJ)
Fulcher	Lesko	Smucker
Gaetz	Letlow	Spartz
Gallagher	Long	Stauber
Garbarino	Loudermilk	Stefanik
García (CA)	Lucas	Steil
Gibbs	Luetkemeyer	Steube
Gohmert	Mann	Stewart
Good (VA)	Massie	Taylor
Gooden (TX)	Mast	Tenney
Gosar	McCaul	Thompson (PA)
Granger	McClintock	Tiffany
Graves (LA)	McHenry	Timmons
Graves (MO)	McKinley	Turner
Green (TN)	Meijer	Valadao
Greene (GA)	Meuser	Van Duyne
Griffith	Miller (IL)	Wagner
Grothman	Miller (WV)	Walberg
Guest	Moolenaar	Walorski
Guthrie	Mooney	Waltz
Hagedorn	Moore (AL)	Weber (TX)
Harris	Moore (UT)	Webster (FL)
Harshbarger	Mullin	Wenstrup
Hartzler	Murphy (NC)	Westerman
Hern	Nehls	Williams (TX)
Herrell	Norman	Wilson (SC)
Herrera Beutler	Nunes	Wittman
Hice (GA)	Owens	Womack
Higgins (LA)	Palazzo	Young
Hill	Palmer	Zeldin

NOT VOTING—2

Biggs	DeFazio
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□ 1707

Mr. MCKINLEY changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. MCCARTHY changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 160, I mistakenly voted “yes” when I intended to vote “No.”

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE
RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Barragán	Kirkpatrick	Porter (Wexton)
(Gallego)	(Stanton)	Roybal-Allard
Cárdenas	Langevin	(Escobar)
(Gomez)	(Courtney)	Ruiz (Aguilar)
DeSaulnier	Lawson (FL)	Rush
(Thompson)	(Evans)	(Underwood)
(CA)	Lieu (Raskin)	Sewell (DelBene)
Fleischmann	Lowenthal	Sherrill
(Bilirakis)	(Beyer)	(Pallone)
Gaetz (Greene)	Meng (Clark)	Van Drew
(GA)	(MA))	(Norman)
Grijalva (García)	Mfume (Evans)	Velázquez
(IL))	Mullin (Lucas)	(Clarke (NY))
Hoyer (Brown)	Napolitano	Wilson (FL)
Johnson (TX)	(Correa)	(Hayes)
(Jeffries)	Payne (Pallone)	

AWARDING FOUR CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS TO UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE AND THOSE WHO PROTECTED U.S. CAPITOL ON JANUARY 6, 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3325) to award four congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 21, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 161]

YEAS—406

Adams	Chu	Garamendi
Aderholt	Cicilline	Garbarino
Aguilar	Clark (MA)	Clark (CA)
Allen	Clarke (NY)	Garcia (IL)
Allred	Cleaver	Garcia (TX)
Amodi	Cline	Gibbs
Armstrong	Clyburn	Gimenez
Arrington	Cohen	Golden
Auchincloss	Cole	Gomez
Axne	Comer	Gonzales, Tony
Babin	Connolly	Gonzalez (OH)
Bacon	Cooper	Gonzalez,
Baird	Correa	Vicente
Balderson	Costa	Gooden (TX)
Banks	Courtney	Gottheimer
Barr	Craig	Granger
Barragán	Crawford	Graves (LA)
Bass	Crenshaw	Graves (MO)
Beatty	Crist	Green (TN)
Bentz	Crow	Green, Al (TX)
Bera	Cuellar	Griffith
Bergman	Curtis	Grijalva
Beyer	Dauids (KS)	Grothman
Bice (OK)	Davis, Danny K.	Guest
Bilirakis	Davis, Rodney	Guthrie
Bishop (GA)	Dean	Hagedorn
Bishop (NC)	DeGette	Harder (CA)
Blumenauer	DeLauro	Harshbarger
Blunt Rochester	DelBene	Hayes
Bonamici	Delgado	Hern
Bost	Demings	Herrell
Bourdeaux	DeSaulnier	Herrera Beutler
Bowman	DesJarlais	Higgins (LA)
Boyle, Brendan	Deutch	Higgins (NY)
F.	Diaz-Balart	Hill
Brady	Dingell	Himes
Brooks	Doggett	Hinson
Brown	Donalds	Hollingsworth
Brownley	Doyle, Michael	Horsford
Buchanan	F.	Houlihan
Buck	Duncan	Hoyer
Bucshon	Dunn	Huffman
Budd	Emmer	Huizenga
Burchett	Escobar	Issa
Burgess	Eshoo	Jackson
Bush	Espallat	Jackson Lee
Bustos	Estes	Jacobs (CA)
Butterfield	Evans	Jacobs (NY)
Calvert	Fallon	Jayapal
Cammack	Feenstra	Jeffries
Carbajal	Ferguson	Johnson (GA)
Cárdenas	Fischbach	Johnson (LA)
Carl	Fitzgerald	Johnson (OH)
Carson	Fitzpatrick	Johnson (SD)
Carter (GA)	Fleischmann	Johnson (TX)
Carter (LA)	Fletcher	Jones
Carter (TX)	Fortenberry	Jordan
Cartwright	Foster	Joyce (OH)
Case	Fox	Joyce (PA)
Casten	Frankel, Lois	Kahele
Castor (FL)	Franklin, C.	Kaptur
Castro (TX)	Scott	Katko
Cawthorn	Fulcher	Keating
Chabot	Gallagher	Keller
Cheney	Gallego	Kelly (IL)

Kelly (MS)	Mrvan	Simpson
Kelly (PA)	Mullin	Sires
Khanna	Murphy (FL)	Slotkin
Kildee	Murphy (NC)	Smith (MO)
Kilmer	Nadler	Smith (NE)
Kim (CA)	Napolitano	Smith (NJ)
Kim (NJ)	Neal	Smith (WA)
Kind	Neguse	Smucker
Kinzinger	Nehls	Soto
Kirkpatrick	Newhouse	Spanberger
Krishnamoorthi	Newman	Spartz
Kuster	Norcross	Speier
Kustoff	Nunes	Stansbury
LaHood	O'Halleran	Stanton
LaMalfa	Obenholte	Staubert
Lamb	Ocasio-Cortez	Steel
Lamborn	Omar	Stefanik
Langevin	Owens	Steil
Larsen (WA)	Palazzo	Stevens
Larson (CT)	Pallone	Stewart
Latta	Palmer	Strickland
LaTurner	Panetta	Suozzi
Lawrence	Pappas	Swalwell
Lawson (FL)	Pascarella	Takano
Lee (CA)	Payne	Taylor
Lee (NV)	Pelosi	Tenney
Leger Fernandez	Pence	Thompson (CA)
Lesko	Perlmutter	Thompson (MS)
Letlow	Peters	Thompson (PA)
Levin (CA)	Pfleger	Tiffany
Levin (MI)	Phillips	Timmons
Lieu	Pingree	Titus
Lofgren	Pocan	Tlaib
Long	Porter	Tonko
Loudermilk	Posey	Torres (CA)
Lowenthal	Pressley	Torres (NY)
Lucas	Price (NC)	Trahan
Luetkemeyer	Quigley	Trone
Luria	Raskin	Turner
Lynch	Reed	Underwood
Mace	Reschenthaler	Upton
Malinowski	Rice (NY)	Valadao
Malliotakis	Rice (SC)	Van Drew
Maloney, Sean	Rodgers (WA)	Van Dwyne
Mann	Rogers (AL)	Vargas
Manning	Rogers (KY)	Veasey
Mast	Ross	Vela
Matsui	Rouzer	Velázquez
McBath	Roybal-Allard	Wagner
McCarthy	Ruiz	Walberg
McCaul	Ruppersberger	Walorski
McClain	Rush	Waltz
McClintock	Rutherford	Wasserman
McCollum	Ryan	Schultz
McEachin	Salazar	Waters
McGovern	Sánchez	Watson Coleman
McHenry	Sarbanes	Weber (TX)
McKinley	Scalise	Webster (FL)
McNerney	Scanlon	Welch
Meeks	Schakowsky	Wenstrup
Meijer	Schiff	Westerman
Meng	Schneider	Wexton
Meuser	Schrader	Wild
Mfume	Schrier	Williams (GA)
Miller (WV)	Schweikert	Williams (TX)
Miller-Meeks	Scott (VA)	Wilson (FL)
Moolenaar	Scott, Austin	Wilson (SC)
Mooney	Scott, David	Wittman
Moore (UT)	Sessions	Womack
Moore (WI)	Sewell	Yarmuth
Morelle	Sherman	Young
Moulton	Sherrill	Zeldin

NAYS—21

Biggs	Good (VA)	Moore (AL)
Boebert	Gosar	Norman
Cloud	Greene (GA)	Perry
Clyde	Harris	Rose
Davidson	Hice (GA)	Rosendale
Gaetz	Massie	Roy
Gohmert	Miller (IL)	Steube

NOT VOTING—4

DeFazio	Hudson	Maloney,
Hartzler		Carolyn B.

□ 1729

Ms. CHENEY, Messrs. VEASEY and DESJARLAIS changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, I missed the vote on rollcall No. 161. Had I been present I would have voted “yea” on rollcall 161.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Barragán	Kirkpatrick	Roybal-Allard
(Gallego)	(Stanton)	(Escobar)
Cárdenas	Langevin	Ruiz (Aguilar)
(Gomez)	(Courtney)	Rush
DeSaulnier	Lawson (FL)	(Underwood)
(Thompson)	(Evans)	Sewell (DelBene)
(CA))	Lieu (Raskin)	Sherrill
Fleischmann	Lowenthal	(Pallone)
(Bilirakis)	(Beyer)	Strickland
Gaetz (Greene	Meng (Clark	(Kilmer)
(GA))	(MA))	Van Drew
Grijalva (Garcia	Mfume (Evans)	(Norman)
(IL))	Mullin (Lucas)	Velázquez
Hoyer (Brown)	Napolitano	(Clarke (NY))
Johnson (TX)	(Correa)	Wilson (FL)
(Jeffries)	Payne (Pallone)	(Hayes)
	Porter (Wexton)	

LGBTQ BUSINESS EQUAL CREDIT ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1443) to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to require the collection of small business loan data related to LGBTQ-owned businesses, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 248, nays 177, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 162]

YEAS—248

Adams	Cleaver	Gallego
Aguilar	Clyburn	Garamendi
Allred	Cohen	Garbarino
Auchincloss	Cole	Garcia (CA)
Axne	Connolly	Garcia (IL)
Barragán	Cooper	Garcia (TX)
Bass	Correa	Gimenez
Beatty	Costa	Golden
Bera	Courtney	Gomez
Beyer	Craig	Gonzales, Tony
Bishop (GA)	Crist	Gonzalez (OH)
Blumenauer	Crow	Gonzalez,
Blunt Rochester	Cuellar	Vicente
Bonamici	Dauids (KS)	Gottheimer
Bost	Davis, Danny K.	Green, Al (TX)
Bourdeaux	Davis, Rodney	Grijalva
Bowman	Dean	Harder (CA)
Boyle, Brendan	DeGette	Hayes
F.	DeLauro	Himes
Brown	DelBene	Hinson
Brownley	Delgado	Horsford
Bush	Demings	Houlihan
Bustos	DeSaulnier	Hoyer
Butterfield	Deutch	Huffman
Calvert	Diaz-Balart	Jackson Lee
Carbajal	Dingell	Jacobs (CA)
Cárdenas	Doggett	Jayapal
Carson	Doyle, Michael	Jeffries
Carter (LA)	F.	Johnson (GA)
Cartwright	Emmer	Johnson (TX)
Case	Escobar	Jones
Casten	Eshoo	Joyce (OH)
Castor (FL)	Espallat	Kahele
Castro (TX)	Evans	Kaptur
Chu	Fitzpatrick	Katko
Cicilline	Fletcher	Keating
Clark (MA)	Foster	Kelly (IL)
Clarke (NY)	Frankel, Lois	Khanna

Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Mfume
Miller-Meeks
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton

Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)

Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Steel
Stevens
Strickland
Suozi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—177

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
DesJarlais
Duncan
Dunn
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann

Fortenberry
Foxy
Franklin, C.
Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gibbs
Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta

LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McKinley
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Mullin
Nehls
Norman
Nunes
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)

Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)

Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Van Duyn
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)

Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—5

Boebert
DeFazio

Donalds
Higgins (NY)

Rodgers (WA)

□ 1751

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Gallego)	Kirkpatrick (Stanton)	Roybal-Allard (Escobar)
Cárdenas	Langevin	Ruiz (Aguilar)
(Gomez)	(Courtney)	Rush
DeSaulnier (Thompson (CA))	Lawson (FL) (Evans)	(Underwood)
Fleischmann (Bilirakis)	Lieu (Raskin)	Sewell (DelBene)
Gaetz (Greene (GA))	Lowenthal (Beyer)	Sherrill (Pallone)
Grijalva (García (IL))	Meng (Clark (MA))	Strickland (Kilmer)
Hoyer (Brown)	Mfume (Evans)	Van Drew
Johnson (TX)	Mullin (Lucas)	(Norman)
(Jeffries)	Napolitano (Correa)	Velázquez (Clarke (NY))
	Payne (Pallone)	Wilson (FL)
	Porter (Wexton)	(Hayes)

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Natural Resources:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: I write today to request to be removed from the House Committee on Natural Resources to allow Representative Stansbury to serve on this important committee.

Representative Stansbury was recently sworn in as a Member of the House of Representatives serving New Mexico's 1st Congressional District. Representative Stansbury is filling the vacancy created when then Representative Haaland was nominated and confirmed to be the United States Secretary of the Interior. Before serving as Secretary of the Interior, former Representative Haaland used her position on the House Committee on Natural Resources to combat the climate crisis and create a more equitable future for her constituents and all Americans. I believe it is important that Representative Stansbury have an opportunity to continue this legacy and represent her constituents in New Mexico's 1st Congressional District on the House Committee on Natural Resources.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

DORIS MATSUI,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTING A CERTAIN MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 475

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Ms. Stansbury, to rank immediately after Ms. Leger Fernández.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY: Ms. Stansbury, to rank immediately after Mr. Bowman.

Mr. AGUILAR (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRESS MUST TAKE ACTION

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, last week, the unthinkable happened. A grandmother, Litha Verone, was innocently shopping in a local supermarket with her precious young grandson when they were both brutally murdered by a deranged man with a semi-automatic weapon.

My heart breaks for Litha's family for their unbearable loss.

But, once again, prayers and good wishes are not enough. On so many levels we must take action passing commonsense gun legislation, strengthening our mental health system, reaching out to those in trouble because in the last moments of her life, a grandmother watched in horror as her grandchild was shot and killed by a man who should never have had a gun.

Madam Speaker, last week, the unthinkable happened, and we must not stop thinking about it.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIANA VETERANS' HOME

(Mr. BAIRD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor the 125th anniversary of the Indiana Veterans' Home.

It was established in Tippecanoe County in 1895, and the Indiana Veterans' Home initially served as a facility to care for the disabled Union soldiers after the Civil War.

By 1910, the home served over 1,400 residents and offered its own hospital, bakery, and electric light plant.

Over a century later, the Indiana Veterans' Home continues to operate as a full-service facility offering a multitude of medical and support services for its residents.

It is also home to a small museum of historical artifacts, and serves as the final resting place for nearly 3,000 veterans and their spouses.

Indiana has a proud tradition of honoring its veterans, and the Indiana Veterans' Home is a shining example of Hoosiers' commitment to the care of those who have served.

I congratulate those at the Indiana Veterans' Home on their 125th anniversary, and I offer my sincere gratitude for their continued service to Hoosier veterans and their families.

□ 1800

BRING DANNY FENSTER HOME

(Mr. LEVIN of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to mark 3 weeks since my constituent, Danny Fenster—pictured here—was captured and imprisoned by the Burmese military simply for doing his job as a journalist, 22 days spent on the phone and with my arms wrapped around his traumatized but determined family, upwards of 500 hours reading our community's outpouring of comments about Danny's dignity and his career of standing up for people around the world.

I have called on ambassadors all throughout the region. I have called on our own State Department to ask why, what is the justification for our Embassy not having access to our citizen? And they have no reason.

It is a violation of international law, and it is a violation of human rights.

The U.S. Embassy needs access to Danny while we keep fighting for his immediate and unconditional release and to protect the freedom of the press.

I will not stop fighting and our community will not stop fighting until we bring Danny home.

HOLDING CAMILA ORTEGA ACCOUNTABLE

(Ms. SALAZAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, Latin America's dictators exploit their children just like they exploit their own people.

The best example is Nicaragua's dictator, Daniel Ortega. Ortega leads his corrupt, oppressive, dictatorial regime along with his wife and Vice President, Rosario Murillo. Their daughter, Camila Ortega, has defalcated millions and millions of dollars from the Nica-

raguan people while her mother and father continue oppressing anyone who opposes them.

Madam Speaker, 10 days ago, the United States Government blacklisted Camila Ortega for corruption. She is officially sanctioned. Her bank accounts are frozen. No one can do business with her at this hour. She will no longer lavishly spend the people's money in the streets of Miami, my district, where I represent thousands and thousands of the Nicaraguan exile community who fled her father's regime and his oppression.

Madam Speaker, from the floor of the United States Congress, from this floor, we ask the European Union and Canada to join America in holding Camila Ortega accountable.

Ortega wants to steal the elections by jailing anyone who opposes him. But make no mistake, he and his family will pay for these atrocities.

HONORING SISTER PEG SPINDLER

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration and pride that I rise to honor Sister Peg Spindler for her lifetime of service and dedication to the Sojourner Truth House in Gary, Indiana.

After more than 24 years of service, Sister Peg will be retiring on July 1 as the executive director of the women's shelter.

Sister Peg found her calling to sisterhood at a young age while growing up in Cedar Lake, Indiana. In November 1997, Sister Peg, along with the support of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, opened the doors to the Sojourner Truth House, which serves the true vulnerable populations, the homeless, the underserved, and the at-risk women and their children, with the goal of providing them the necessary tools and resources to improve their quality of life.

After retiring, Sister Peg plans to visit Catholic parishes throughout the country to advocate on best practices, to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and to combat the harmful effects of climate change on the most vulnerable.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring Sister Peg Spindler for her lifetime of leadership and tireless dedication to the most vulnerable of populations in her community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FREDERICK AURELIUS "RELE" EVANS

(Mr. PALMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate a life well-lived.

Frederick Aurelius "Rele" Evans passed away last month at the age of 94. After graduating high school in

Tuscaloosa, he joined the Navy. After his service, he enrolled at Tulane University and earned a bachelor of science in electrical engineering.

Following his college graduation, he joined the Air Force and became a fighter pilot, protecting Strategic Air Command while stationed in Sioux City, Iowa.

Following his time in the military, he became employed as a test pilot for Hughes Aircraft and later worked for TRW. While working for TRW, he earned a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering at UCLA, specializing in control systems theory.

Rele was the lead guidance engineer at Cape Canaveral when John Glenn was put into orbit, and he designed the on-board computer's guidance system for the lunar lander. He also coauthored the formula to put Apollo on the Moon and was present at Mission Control when Neil Armstrong took one giant leap for mankind. He eventually returned to Alabama.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for the contributions Rele made to our military, our space program, and the State of Alabama. I wish his family the best as they mourn the loss of this modest man who accomplished much.

ENSURING EQUAL TRANSPORTATION ACCESSIBILITY

(Ms. NEWMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NEWMAN. Madam Speaker, today, I rise on behalf of the millions of Americans with disabilities, the millions of Americans who live in a major city with a major public transit system but are unable to utilize it because it is not accessible to them.

If we want to build a world-class public transportation system in America, it has to start by ensuring every station and every bus and train across our Nation is equally accessible to everyone.

That is why I introduced the All Stations Accessibility Act, or ASAP Act, of 2021, which would establish a Federal grant program to support transit authorities to upgrade stations to meet or exceed ADA accessibility standards.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to say that we have secured this grant program in the INVEST in America Act. Now, I urge this body to pass that legislation so that we can better ensure our public transit services are for all riders, especially those with a disability.

ENDING ILLEGAL MARIJUANA OPERATIONS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, in California, we are known for having a lot of marijuana grows. But we have to

recognize this is still an illegal substance at the Federal level.

We have, in my district—it is amazing—many hundreds of illegal hot-houses that have been planted in Siskiyou County full of marijuana grows.

Now, we haven't had many resources to help out up there until very recently, when a sheriff up there took it upon himself to eradicate these grows, to go against the county ordinances there, to go against other ordinances on water use, chemical use. They are using chemicals that are not even available to farmers that have long been made illegal in this country and in the State of California.

These grows cause irreparable damage to the environment and wildlife and are even dangerous to people who happen to traipse in there accidentally, with folks who are so heavily armed. They are cartels from out of the country that are in there doing this operation—all illegally. Why do we allow this to go on?

These marijuana grows are dangerous and are against the law. The Federal Government needs to be a stronger partner in backing the locals on eradicating these grows because of how much damage they do to the community, to the environment, to the wildlife, and to the overall feeling people have of their community up there. We need to help more.

CONTINUE RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, earlier this year, Congress sprung into action to deal with the part of the economy that was hit perhaps hardest than any: the hospitality industry.

Independent restaurants suffered massive job losses. Congress responded with the Restaurant Rescue Plan, \$28.6 billion. Madam Speaker, the need was so overwhelming that the fund was totally subscribed in 3 days.

We are working now with H.R. 3807 to replenish that fund with a \$60 billion allocation, with bipartisan support in the House and Senate.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this important legislation to replenish the fund and rescue our restaurants, which are the cornerstone of a livable community.

RECLAIMING OUR FISCAL FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. HERN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, our country is facing a crisis of our own making. Republicans and Democrats alike have contributed to the rampant spending in Washington over the last several decades. But it is time for someone to stand up and say enough is enough.

I am here tonight with some of the greatest minds in Congress to talk about our floor-ready plan to tackle wasteful spending and restore fiscal responsibility to the Federal Government.

In December, Republican Study Committee Chairman JIM BANKS asked me to lead the Budget Task Force for the 117th Congress, and I gladly accepted. I put together a team of incredible fiscal conservatives to help repair our fiscal year 2022 budget.

I thank these intelligent, hard-working colleagues for rising to the occasion, working diligently to meet our ambitious goals, and putting together a fine product that will serve all Americans. They are Chairman JIM BANKS, ROGER WILLIAMS, TRENT KELLY, RALPH NORMAN, RON ESTES, MICHAEL CLOUD, BEN CLINE, BYRON DONALDS, and BOB GOOD. Thank you, gentlemen.

In addition to my task force members, I would like to thank a man who is integral to the work of the task force and is a huge reason for the success of this final budget, Richard Stern.

When I said yes to drafting the budget for fiscal year 2022, I committed to creating a thorough, floor-ready budget that reflects the conservative values that gave us the greatest economy in the history of the world before the pandemic. I believe, as do my colleagues, that the pro-growth policies of the Trump administration are proven tactics to grow the economy and give Americans more control of their own money.

Everyone in Washington seems to forget that we have no money of our own. Everything we appropriate in this Chamber, every dollar, comes from the American taxpayers. None of it belongs to us.

In the last year, we spent \$7.6 trillion, largely due to an unprecedented global pandemic. The Biden administration has shown no sign of slowing down and is starting to alarm more than just conservatives. It is our responsibility to hold this administration accountable and prove to the American people that there is someone left on Capitol Hill who cares about our debts.

We need to return to federalism, where the Federal Government, the State, and the individual have their own distinct roles.

In order to combat aggressive spending, we need an aggressive plan. That brings us to this year's budget, aptly named "Reclaiming Our Fiscal Future."

President Trump's budget proposal to Congress would have balanced in 15 years. That was our starting point, and we knew we were capable of balancing in less than 10.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say that our budget will balance in just 5 years. Many of you would ask how that is even possible. There are two parts to that answer. The first part is due to changes in inflation and interest costs following the COVID-19 pandemic. The second is due to pro-growth policies like the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

When we give Americans more control of their own money, the result is market growth, wage growth, consumer confidence, and, yes, increased revenues for the Federal Government.

We are making provisions from the Tax Cuts and Job Cuts Act permanent, reducing the tax burden by \$1.9 trillion, almost \$16,000 per household.

We are shielding the middle class from capital gains taxes, eliminating the death taxes, and repealing market-distorting tax carve-outs.

Our budget is the most pro-life budget ever introduced, with 17 pieces of pro-life legislation included. Our budget stands strong for the issues Americans care about, and we are crystal clear about how to pay for it.

We are securing our border and building the wall. We are protecting your Second Amendment rights. We are supporting our police officers and ensuring our communities remain safe for everyone.

Our budget includes over 30 specific deregulation bills ensuring liberty for American job creators and workers alike.

□ 1815

We are putting Medicare and Social Security on a path to solvency without cutting immediate benefits. Whether you call them earmarks or community project funding, we are getting rid of it for good. We are reforming the budget process to be transparent and effective. To put it simply, we are fighting for Main Street America.

Tonight, you will hear from me and my colleagues who helped shape this budget, whether as a member of the task force or by contributing legislation that is included in our budget. These Members all have something very important in common, a deep respect for the American taxpayer.

It is our job to ensure that Americans' tax dollars are being spent wisely, that the government is making every effort to prevent waste and promote efficiency. It is pretty clear this hasn't been the case in Washington for a long time.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), my dear friend from the 21st Congressional District.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma and appreciate his work on this important matter, and my colleagues on the Republican Study Committee.

I am happy to be working on a task force to advance healthcare freedom, personalized healthcare, the ways that we believe we can get the American people to see the doctor of his or her choice without having to see an insurance bureaucrat or a government bureaucrat and be able to get access to care. And that is all germane, by the way, to this question of spending.

I think it is really important here, and I am going to talk in a minute about how good I believe it is that we have a 5-year balanced budget that the Republican Study Committee has put forward, and proving that it can, in fact, be done.

But let's talk for a minute about the irresponsible budgeting and spending of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Most Americans hear these large numbers and they don't know how to put them in context. What our national debt is, over \$28 trillion. But nobody knows what that means. It doesn't mean anything to the average person. We divide it and we say how much it is per person or family. We got numbers here, \$226,000 per taxpayer, \$85,000 per citizen. People still don't know what that means.

If you set out to count the roughly \$28.2 trillion debt we have now, how long do you think that would take, Madam Speaker? 900,000 years if you counted one per second; one Mississippi. It would take you 900,000 years to count to \$28.2 trillion. It is just absurd.

We are literally destroying the fiscal health of our country by the second. We are destroying it by the second. Our children and grandchildren are going to inherit this. But what is the real problem? We are killing our economy in the process. We are killing the American Dream in the process. We are killing small businesses in the process.

We just spent \$6 trillion appropriated in the process of spending. \$6 trillion in a year in the name of COVID, as my friend from Oklahoma and my other colleagues well know. \$6 trillion. Some of that was worthwhile. I think there was some PPP money in there that helps small businesses that I was happy to support, but \$6 trillion.

Would it interest the Madam Speaker to know that we spent \$4.1 trillion for all of World War II, in current dollars? All of World War II, from the very beginning, from Pearl Harbor all the way to the second bomb in Japan, \$4 trillion over 3½ years.

We just spent \$6 trillion in a year, effectively shutting down our economy, scaring the heck out of our children, forcing them to wear masks, shoving them into the corners of the classroom, forcing people not to go to the doctor of their choice, all so that Anthony Fauci could find himself on the cover

of another magazine, while perpetuating a whole lot of myths that scare the hell out of the American people. That is just what occurred over the last year.

And what is the impact of that? Well, last week the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that year over year consumer prices rose 5 percent in May. Has anybody gone to go buy a sheet of plywood? Two times, three times, four times. Anybody talking to the builders in your districts? How is their pipeline looking down the road?

Did anybody go talk to the small restaurants and businesses out there? They are devastated, unable to hire people. Why? Because we are paying people more not to work than to work. How many people do you talk to that are in your district that say, well, I have got a help wanted sign up, but I can't get anybody to work.

How is that going to bring back the economy and bring back jobs and bring back opportunity and bring back prosperity for the American people? And, oh, by the way, how is it ever going to allow us to have any fiscal responsibility as a nation? And that is what we are talking about here.

And we are talking about a plan that Republicans are putting forward. Meanwhile, our Democratic colleagues have not passed a budget. We just had a deeming statement, or whatever it is we adopted, for \$1.5 trillion, it just slid in this week. \$1.5 trillion. It is like Monopoly money. Nobody even understands what we are doing here.

And so we have got a budget that we put forward that balances in 5 years. Why don't we debate it? For all the C-SPAN viewers out there, look how many people are in the Chamber. About, what, 10 of us. Ten Members, election certificates, in here. Why don't we have a bill on the floor and why don't we debate it?

How many Americans would love to hear that the people's House has not had an amendment offered on the floor of this Chamber since May of 2016 in regular order, an open amendment? Congressman ROY offers an amendment to a bill. Not since May of 2016, 5 years. It is all done in committee and rules and some smoke room in the back up here, just drop down, and we all go up and we vote "yes" or "no", and then we go out and give speeches. That is no way to govern. The American people know how to balance their own budgets at home. Businesses know how to balance budgets. Yet, this irresponsible government doesn't.

Madam Speaker, I would implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to follow the great work of the Republican Study Committee, and look at the budget that we put forward that balances in 5 years, bring it to the floor of the House, and allow us to have an open debate. Go through the Budget Committee, go to the floor, and actually have a debate about the fiscal health and responsibility of this country so that our kids and grandkids can

inherit the greatest country in the world, rather than \$30 trillion in debt, and leaving us crippled and unable to carry forward for the good of our country.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I would yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER), the 15th Congressional District.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Republican Study Committee for hosting this important Special Order. Our Nation's taxpayers deserve to be respected when it comes to our Federal budget. Fiscal responsibility is vital for a stable, strong, and long-lasting economy.

Under the current administration and Democrat control in Congress, there are actual Federal efforts being conducted at the taxpayers' expense to redefine gender and demonize traditional American values. We must put a stop to this nonsense, especially on the taxpayers' dime.

I have always told my children; the government has no money except for what they extract from the American people. The Republican Study Committee released a counter budget to the extremely irresponsible and radical budget that the Biden administration has put forth. This budget would balance our Federal budget in 5 years, cut spending by \$14.4 trillion over 10 years, incorporate 30-plus deregulatory legislative proposals, and reduces taxes by \$1.9 trillion.

The RSC budget will also adopt my bill, the Safety and Opportunity for Girls Act, to protect spaces for women and girls in schools. The bill would prevent the Title IX provisions in President Biden's executive order—it would limit them to being biological and the genetic definition of sex.

I support the RSC budget proposal because it treats the government's money as its own and works to promote all the best parts in America.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), the co-chair of the Border Caucus from the 36th Congressional District.

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Oklahoma for having this Special Order tonight.

Madam Speaker, my message tonight is simple. We are more than \$28 trillion in debt and sinking fast. If we don't make drastic changes to the way we govern, we won't have a country left to govern.

In 2011, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, famously proclaimed that the national debt is the single greatest risk to our Nation.

When I was elected in 2014, 7 years ago, the national debt was \$18 trillion. In just 7 years, Madam Speaker, we have increased the debt by more than \$10 trillion. In fact, we have spent more in the last year than the annual economic production of every single country in the world, with the exception of our own, China, and India.

Shockingly, President Biden's only idea of how to deal with our rapidly increasing debt is to spend \$6 trillion more. The President and my colleagues across the aisle throw the word trillion around like it is nothing. It is hard to contemplate the magnitude of a trillion, but think about this: one trillion seconds is around 32,000 years. Let that sink in.

The left's out of control spending and blatant disregard for our future must absolutely be stopped. Our failure to do so will undoubtedly lead us down the road to economic ruin, which is exactly why the Republican Study Committee's, the RSC's balanced budget is our best chance at reclaiming our fiscal future.

Madam Speaker, I am incredibly proud that one of my bills, the State and Local Pensions Accountability and Security Act, which prohibits the unelected bureaucrats at the Treasury Department or the Federal Reserve from bailing out irresponsible State or local government pension systems was included in the RSC's final budget proposal.

So let's eliminate the deficit and let's balance the budget in the next 5 years, as this does. Let's cut spending by \$14.4 trillion over the next decade, and reduce taxes by \$1.9 trillion, and get our country back on the right track, and that is exactly what this budget proposal does.

To quote my colleague from Alabama, Congressman MO BROOKS, he says, "Great nations weaken from within before they fall from without." Our future generations are counting on us to get this done.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague and the whole group of the Republican Study Committee for working on this budget proposal because, frankly, this is an incredible threat to our Nation's security. It is a threat to the U.S. dollar as our global reserve currency, and as the Fed continues to accommodate it, we are destroying the value of our dollar.

This is an essential duty of our body here in the House of Representatives, and so it is an incredible honor to have three of the bills that I have drafted be included in the proposal. One is the CBO Show Your Work Act. Frankly, the Congressional Budget Office is our accounting office.

Now, imagine if you worked at a firm and you were on the board, and you simply said, I want to see the books. And the accounting department said, no, we are not going to show it to you. They won't even show it to regular Members sometimes. They should show it to the whole public. They are doing the work on behalf of the public. It is not a trade secret. It is not proprietary. They model our economy, their scores have incredible consequences, and they need to show their work.

Another one is the Global Trade Accountability Act. President Trump

rightly put a lot of attention on trade, and it is right that Congress would reclaim some of its authority. Because when Congress doesn't enact a law, it doesn't endure, it pivots from administration to administration. It pulls the authority back to Congress where it lies in the Constitution, and it puts the President on a shot clock. And, frankly, not the President so much as the people we initiate against; either come to the table and negotiate something within 90 days, or the authority goes away, and you have to change something. 90 more days. And, in general, until you agree, it is going to keep getting worse.

□ 1830

Lastly, we have the fair representation amendment, and that would say that when we apportion congressional districts, we apportion them based on the number of U.S. citizens.

Frankly, rural America is being disenfranchised by counting noncitizens when we apportion Representatives. Ohio is losing yet another Representative.

That is not a partisan issue. It doesn't break on party lines. Frankly, Texas and California benefit by counting noncitizens, but it is hurting a lot of our country by counting them.

There are factors in terms of how we allocate dollars. Instead of dollars per citizen, we are allocating dollars per capita, and that sends more dollars to urban districts and fewer dollars to rural districts.

It is important work. I thank the committee, and I thank, particularly, Mr. HERN for his work leading it.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of America's fiscal future as it is envisioned in the RSC budget.

For the first time since I have been here in 5 years, we have managed to assemble a very reasonable path forward to fiscal stability for our country.

I have language in this bill reflective of the crisis at the border. My legislation, H.R. 2729, the Finish the Wall Act, is included in the language of the underlying bill.

On President Biden's first day in office, he halted the use of border security funds allocated by Congress, ended all ongoing construction of the border wall, and implemented very weak border policies that have had dire consequences for our Nation.

We have had over 1 million illegal crossings thus far this year. In history, it has never been this high. We have had surges here and there in 2014 and 2019, yes, under various administrations for various reasons. But we have never had 1.1 million illegal crossings into our country.

Our border has created layers of crisis, and we must deal with it. We must act. We must force action from our executive.

The debt that we face as a nation is crippling, and the generations yet unborn will not survive a \$31 trillion debt that we are looking at right now. America will not continue to exist as we know it with that type of crippling debt. But we won't get there. We won't get to our grandchildren and great-grandchildren as a strong American nation if we allow the sovereignty of America to be destroyed in the course of one Presidential term.

Madam Speaker, we are trending over 2 million illegal crossings this year. We cannot allow this to happen. I urge my colleagues to take a reasonable look at the RSC budget.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Fourth Congressional District of Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA).

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss Sarah's Law, a bicameral bill I introduced along with Senator JONI ERNST from Iowa.

Our proposal was named in honor of Sarah Root, a 21-year-old girl who, after her graduation, that night, was killed by an illegal immigrant. The illegal immigrant was drunk and drag racing. He posted bond. ICE did not detain him, and he left the country, never to be seen from ever again.

The bill would require authorities to keep illegal immigrants in custody if they have been charged with a crime that resulted in death or serious bodily injury.

I am pleased that my proposal was included in the Republican Study Committee budget. After all, budgets reflect priorities, and given the crisis at our border, it is crucial that we implement tougher immigration policies that protect Iowans and protect Americans.

Border encounters have hit an all-time high in the last two decades, with over 180,000 encounters in the month of May. Last year, we had over 23,000. Yet, President Biden's bloated \$6 trillion budget proposal does not include a single cent more for homeland security.

Unlike Vice President Harris, the administration's self-appointed border czar, I went to the border. I heard directly from law enforcement officers. We need to ensure they have the resources they need to do their jobs, and we need to start enacting stricter immigration and border security policies that address this crisis.

At the very least, we can all agree that neither American citizens nor illegal immigrants should ever be able to evade the law. Sarah's Law would ensure illegal immigrants cannot escape justice simply due to immigration policy loopholes.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Republican Study Committee's budget. It is a fantastic budget.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma has 35 minutes remaining.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Fifth Congressional District of Virginia (Mr. GOOD). He is also a task force member who gave us a tremendous amount of input on our process, and I want to thank him for his work. It was a 5-month journey that we went through to arrive at this budget and a lot of sleepless nights. I really appreciate the gentleman's inputs and his thoughts.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman HERN for his work as chairman of the Republican Study Committee Budget Task Force and for leading this effort. Also, I would like to thank RSC Chairman JIM BANKS for his outstanding leadership overall of the RSC.

This team has done remarkable work to try to keep money where it belongs: in the wallets of hardworking American taxpayers.

The RSC budget proposal would balance the Federal budget within 5 years of implementation, and I am thrilled to say that it is the most pro-life RSC budget ever.

The RSC budget would cut Federal spending by \$14.4 trillion over 10 years and cut taxes by \$1.9 trillion. In fact, it reduces the burden on American taxpayers by nearly \$16,000 per household.

Unlike Biden's budget buster, this budget prioritizes American families and hardworking taxpayers.

I am proud to have served as a member of the RSC Budget Task Force, and this budget is historic for two reasons. First, it unapologetically and unequivocally affirms the conservative values that we were elected to fight for. Second, it courageously addresses our unsustainable entitlement programs, preserves and protects our commitment to America's seniors and those nearing retirement, builds the framework for responsible fiscal management, and secures the future for younger generations of Americans.

The RSC budget contains many of the conservative principles that I have fought for since my first day in office nearly 6 months ago. From protecting people of faith from government intrusion to shielding small businesses from the heavy hand of government regulations to putting the needs of our students before teachers' unions, the RSC budget contains many pieces of legislation that I have personally introduced.

This includes my ALERT Act, which would require monthly updates from executive agencies about any rules they are working on, including the costs to taxpayers of those regulations.

My Article I Regulatory Budget Act would restore direct, accountable congressional control of the Federal regulatory system, as the Founders intended, and require a budget from the President for all regulatory costs, similar to the annual budget for other taxes and spending.

My Right to Earn a Living Act would prevent Congress from subsidizing costly lockdown policies like those handed down by State and local Democrat offi-

cials. As a free-market conservative, I know there is no better way to stimulate our economy than by opening it up and turning the American people loose. Congress cannot continue bailing out poorly run States whose economies have been devastated by these lockdown orders.

My Protecting Religion from Government Act seeks to preserve all Americans' First Amendment rights by allowing citizens to sue State or local governments that seek to prevent or regulate religious services. Government has no constitutional authority over religion.

My Students Before Unions Act would put children first and make COVID funding contingent upon the transparency of local teachers' unions.

My bill to repeal the Jim Crow-era Davis-Bacon Act, which requires the Federal Government to pay the prevailing wage, would end this inexcusable, long-held practice that drives up prices for taxpayer-funded construction and eliminates opportunities for hardworking Americans.

Finally, my SHUSH Act would deregulate firearm suppressors at the Federal level and preempt State laws that regulate, tax, or prohibit the possession of suppressors. No constitutional right should be at risk of public opinion or subject to regulatory and tax burdens.

As a freshman, I am truly grateful and humbled to have so many of my bills included in the budget, second only to the number submitted by RSC Chairman JIM BANKS.

At \$28 trillion of debt that we have now, that equates to about \$85,000 per American citizen. Every time we recklessly and foolishly spend another \$1 trillion, that is about \$10,000 per household. This is unsustainable. The majority in this administration is, at best, economically and fiscally illiterate and incompetent, or, at worst, they are intentionally crushing our financial future and our very Republic.

Our work on this conservative budget shows that it is possible to do what the Democrats seem to find impossible: balance the budget through practical solutions that put American taxpayers first while preserving the values that have made this the greatest country in history.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman HERN again for his leadership in crafting this budget that deserves a vote in the House Budget Committee and on this very floor so that the American people can see if their Representatives are serious about fighting inflation and restoring our fiscal sanity.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, Speaker PELOSI reminded us about 3 years ago when she infamously said: Show me your budget, and I will show you your values.

That phrase and that statement have been made so many times by leaders talking about budgets.

In America, individuals have budgets, counties have budgets, communities

have budgets, cities have budgets, schools have budgets, businesses have budgets, and States have budgets. The United States of America has gone 3 years now without a budget from the Budget Committee that is run by my colleagues from the Democratic Party, the people in power.

We have a budget that we are asking to get on the floor, a budget that is built on the pro-growth policies that we saw 16 months ago yield the greatest economy in our lifetime, the lowest unemployment rate, the most people employed with all diversity, of all ethnicities, of all countries of origin, women, African Americans, and Hispanics. Everywhere, people have seen the greatest jobs they have ever seen. There were double-digit increases for the lowest earning wage earners among us.

We know these policies work. This budget builds upon them. The American people are demanding that we be accountable for the dollars they send us. What we are seeing now in the budget that was just put out by the President in a piecemeal fashion is a budget that sends jobs overseas and that destroys jobs in our energy-producing companies, some of the highest wage earners we have in this country. We see our defense budget being cut below the inflation rate.

As we speak about inflation, the President promised the American people that he wouldn't raise taxes on anybody making less than \$400,000 a year. Madam Speaker, I will tell you the greatest hidden tax in America is inflation, and what we are seeing right now is inflation rising at an annualized rate of 5, 6, and 7 percent that spans everybody in America on top of the proposed tax increases that the President is talking about.

He is proposing looking at changing the tax rates for our multinational companies, our companies that were starting to move jobs back to America. Now we are seeing a deal is being struck by Secretary Yellen to try to take the G7 to tax our companies to the point that we are going to see jobs leave our country and return back to where they moved their headquarters overseas, to lower tax nations.

To my colleagues out there, all we are asking for is to put a budget on the floor, our budget, to get your vote to be responsible to the American taxpayers so that we can see, once and for all, where everyone is on doing the right thing for the American taxpayers.

□ 1845

For all of my colleagues that joined us tonight, what we have heard over the last hour was a clear vision for America, an outline of how conservatives intend to govern. It is sad that we have to call it a conservative budget. It is a budget for the American people. This is the future of our Nation. This is the hope of democracy.

Before I finally close, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Kansas

(Mr. ESTES), my dear colleague, a member of the task force, to give his thoughts on what he saw and worked on, on our budget.

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I thank the Republican Study Committee for hosting this Special Order hour.

Today, our Nation's debt is more than \$28 trillion. With a number that large, it is hard to really understand how much taxpayer money we are really talking about. Well, \$28 trillion is \$1 million 28 million times. Or another way to think about it is it is 28 with 12 zeros behind it.

Spending far beyond our means and watching the debt clock grow astronomically higher has real implications for the future of our country and for our citizens. While many out there would like to believe that we can go on spending without some sort of restraint and it doesn't have any consequences, common sense tells us that is not true.

Because of overspending, the debt held by Americans has already eclipsed the size of our economy and will top 200 percent of the GDP by 2051. Every American, adult and child, bears a burden of more than \$85,000.

The problem is so stark that our country spends about \$800 million per day on interest payments alone. The net interest costs for taxpayers financing this debt will skyrocket from 1.4 percent of GDP, about \$300 billion this year, to 8.6 percent of GDP. That would be more than 2½ times higher than what the U.S. currently spends on defense as a percent of our GDP.

Another way to look at this problem is through the lens of any family budget and take away some zeros.

Let's say in 2020 an individual made \$34,000. That same person spent \$65,000, meaning they spent \$31,000 they didn't have. And they also had a credit card with \$280,000 already on it and growing. This would clearly be absurd and unsustainable, yet somehow that is how the Federal Government operates.

Madam Speaker, American families understand that we should tackle the spending problem first and live within our means. This has to be the focus of our body. It is our duty and our responsibility to those we represent.

We have got to tackle the out-of-control spending before it brings down this great Nation. We need to stop mortgaging our grandkids' future just to sustain and spend our lifestyle today.

Madam Speaker, we need to do the hard work now to address our spending, balance the budget, and fiscally secure our Nation for future generations. Our constituents deserve it.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, the Biden administration has put themselves on the side of Big Government, big taxes, and big bureaucracy.

To paraphrase the great President Ronald Reagan, he said: You can't be for Big Government and still fight for the little guy.

Our budget is a clear outline for middle and working-class Americans that

their government hasn't left them behind. We have a plan and it will benefit all Americans.

I am proud of the budget we put together this year, and I am ready to defend it in front of any committee and any Member of this House.

We have spent the last hour talking about conservative principles. Well, I want to make it clear that this budget is not just for conservatives. It is not just for Republicans. It is a budget for all Americans.

It doesn't matter if your children grow up to be Republicans or Democrats. They will be paying for our debts regardless, long after we are gone. That is why it is important to have leaders who are thinking about our grandchildren and great-grandchildren's future.

It is clear that Joe Biden, KAMALA HARRIS, NANCY PELOSI, and CHUCK SCHUMER would rather auction off that future in order to pay for an unpopular radical agenda.

The American people need to know that we are the captains of this ship and we will not let economic doomsday destroy America's future.

Fiscal responsibility does not have to be partisan, which is why I am calling on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to help us bring this budget to the floor for a vote.

I thank everyone who supported this budget tonight and to everyone who helped us put it together.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMERICAN FAMILIES PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, tonight, I am pleased to be joined by many of my colleagues in the Congressional Progressive Caucus to talk about the long overdue investment we would need to make in the care economy, something that our infrastructure has always relied upon.

I introduced the Care for All Agenda earlier this spring calling for the Federal Government to dramatically expand and strengthen the care economy.

The American Families Plan outlines the next step we need to take to get there, which must include improving work conditions and compensation for care workers nationwide.

The care economy impacts all of us: Our children, elderly loved ones, family

members with disabilities, childcare workers, home health aides, nurses, and so many more. Care is something we all need at different stages in our lives.

The care economy includes our essential workers who put their lives on the line every day during the most devastating global pandemic in a century. Many of us will be caregivers ourselves, if we haven't been one yet.

Ask any working family about how hard it has been to find affordable, quality childcare even before COVID.

Ask a childcare worker if they can afford to send their own child to the center they work at.

Ask any one of the vast majority of workers who do not have paid family and medical leave how hard it is to care for a loved one who is ill while holding on to their job.

Ask anyone who qualifies for long-term care under Medicaid but has been unable to access it due to the healthcare workforce shortage.

Ask a home health aide how much they make hourly, and the need to redesign our care infrastructure will become abundantly clear.

Just as our physical infrastructure is crumbling, the United States today suffers from a lack of care infrastructure. These two truths are intertwined.

Our crumbling infrastructure disproportionately harms Black, Brown, Indigenous and low-income communities. The negative health impacts arising from fossil fuel use, industrial pollution, and toxic materials in our homes and schools are literally making us sick.

We need to invest in eliminating carbon emissions, and we also need to invest in the caregivers we are counting on to heal us now.

We are calling for a broader shift to a society based on care for the people, communities, and the planet we share.

We are still grieving more than 600,000 lives lost to COVID in our country, many of them caregivers themselves. In this last year, we saw how badly we need a robust care economy and what happens when our investment in care doesn't match our needs.

I know that for some, talking about caregiving as infrastructure sounds like a new idea and a "nice to have." None of this work is new, and all of it is necessary.

I have heard directly from New Yorkers who rely on caregivers every day; like a constituent of mine in Westchester, who was born with diastrophic dysplasia, and wrote in about how we need to do better by our caregivers and pay them a living wage. Now in her fifties, she qualifies for Medicaid and needs home-based care. The home health aide who cares for her has to work two additional jobs to make ends meet. That should give us all pause.

One of the biggest champions for caregivers and domestic workers, Aijen Poo, said that: "The definition of infrastructure is that which enables society and the economy to function. So

what is more fundamental than the ability to take care of our loved ones?"

Caregiving is almost always provided by women, especially Black and Brown women. This work has historically been made invisible, which creates opportunities for the exploitation and poverty wages many of our caregivers face without protection or recourse.

When it comes to finding care, millions of families are left with no option but to figure it out, which we know so often means women not taking paid work in order to provide unpaid care for their own families.

The American Families Plan will help us bring the care economy out of the shadows with key investments in childcare, paid leave, Medicaid, home and community-based services, and more.

This goes so much deeper than making it possible for families to enter and remain in the workforce. We need to ask ourselves what kind of systems and structures we want in place not only for people to survive, but also to thrive and reach their full potential.

Given how common it is to need care and not get it, we must ask ourselves: Are we, as a nation, structured to listen? Are we structured to care?

We need to listen to the caregivers and the families who rely on them so that we make the most powerful investments that will not only boost our economy, but also allow us to heal and truly move forward as a society.

We need to rebuild our Nation with a new foundation; a foundation rooted in love, care, and equality. That is the kind of thinking we need in the infrastructure package.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield to my other colleagues who will highlight other critical care economy needs. I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman BOWMAN for yielding to me and also for his tremendous leadership in the Progressive Caucus. We are so proud to welcome him into the Progressive Caucus, into Congress, and to have the benefit of his tremendous experience in education, in caregiving, on so many fronts. I am so proud to cosponsor the Care resolution with the gentleman. I think it is a very important statement.

Madam Speaker, I am also very proud to be here as the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. This is our Special Order hour that we get to devote to any topic that we want; and, today, it is a real privilege and an honor to devote it to the American Families Plan.

Why?

Because the American Families Plan and the American Jobs Plan are what this country needs and what this country wants. Democrats, Republicans, and Independents across the country have said clearly that they are ready for a big, bold investment that allows us, allows America, to build back better.

That is what the President has proposed because, Madam Speaker, at the core of any society is how we care and look out for each other. That reality was made undeniably clear as we have struggled to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, with over 600,000 deaths.

And at the root of our recovery is how we look out for each other, how we give each other opportunities, how we ensure that America truly is a country where we are all better off when we are all better off.

For me, coming to this country by myself at the age of 16, now getting to serve in the United States Congress as the first South Asian-American woman, I have watched how too many people across America do not have that opportunity. They do not have the investments that we, as a Federal Government, should make in order for them to be successful.

Now, our care economy is broad. I am not just talking about essential healthcare providers, like nurses and doctors who cared for patients struck by COVID-19. I am talking about the broader care infrastructure, and that includes childcare. It includes home- and community-care services. And it includes providing everyone with basic paid family and medical leave and more.

The American Families Plan also includes investing in healthcare for everyone across America, investing in education, the kind of education that gave me my opportunity to come here. We need to provide that 2 years of free community college or college for people across this country so that they can get the additional skills they need.

We need to invest in housing and, of course, we need to invest in this broader care economy.

At the end of the day, our American Families Plan, the President's American Families Plan, the jobs plan, has to be about every person across this country, working-class, poor, people who are seeking opportunity, people who deserve to have the American Dream that is no more; to make sure that every person, White, Black, and Brown, with understanding that the disproportionate burden of our inequities and racial injustices in the United States have fallen on Black, Brown, and Indigenous people, we need to make sure that all people are taken care of and have opportunity.

□ 1900

Care infrastructure is the critical infrastructure that allows our families and communities to thrive and stay healthy.

Take, for instance, the home care workers across the country who have been serving on the front lines of the pandemic. For those most vulnerable to COVID, such as people with disabilities and seniors, home care workers were often the difference between life and death. Home care workers allowed many of those most vulnerable to avoid congregate settings, like nursing and

group homes, that saw a high spread of COVID.

Yet, this critical workforce shrunk by 280,000 people at the beginning of the pandemic, despite an increasing need for home care services. That is why the Biden administration has proposed investing \$400 billion to expand the home care workforce, something I was very proud to help negotiate last year as part of our Unity Task Force on healthcare.

But we can't stop there, and the American Families Plan doesn't stop there. The American Families Plan also recognizes that the majority of caregivers, as Mr. BOWMAN said, are women and disproportionately women of color. Many of them are responsible for care at home, which is a huge reason why we have seen women forced out of the workforce in record numbers.

In December 2020 alone, women accounted for nearly all the jobs lost, with a disproportionately high number of job losses coming from women of color.

That is why we need robust investments in universal childcare. No family, regardless of income, should pay more than 7 percent of their income on childcare. And we have to eliminate administrative barriers, like work requirements, that make it much more difficult for low-income White, Black, Brown, and indigenous people to access childcare.

Finally, we have to ensure strong labor standards for this care workforce. We cannot entrust people to care for the most valuable people in our lives and deny them a living wage, the right to join a union, and paid leave. These workers give our loved ones dignity. They give so many of us the ability to work outside of our homes to support our families.

As we talk about domestic workers, I am so proud to have the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights that I have introduced in Congress. Let's remember that this care work is the work that allows all other work to be possible.

This is an important moment for us to pass the American Families Plan to invest in education, to invest in healthcare, to lower the Medicare eligibility age, to take on prescription drugs, and to invest in this oh-so-important care economy. It is time to deliver for the American people so we continue to build back better and ensure that everyone has the support they need.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), my friend.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for his work. We are indeed friends. We both were teachers, Mr. BOWMAN a principal. We are educators at heart.

To recover from one of the worst economic crises we have faced as a Nation, we must invest in families, our care economy, and our Nation's childcare.

For most American families, quality childcare and preschool are

unaffordable. In Riverside County, where my district, the 41st District of California, is located, it is unavailable. My district is a childcare desert. My constituents do not have childcare locations available, even if eligible, to help them care for their children while they attend school or work.

It doesn't have to be this way, and it shouldn't be this way. In fact, we should use our path toward recovery as an opportunity to address the disparities communities like mine have been facing when it comes to affordable childcare options. The American Families Plan will secure universal access to preschool and will expand the supply of quality childcare options for all families.

Studies have proven that quality preschool will positively impact children's cognitive, behavioral, and social-emotional development that is critical for their long-term success and mental health. If we are serious about investing in our children's education, we must provide universal preschool and affordable childcare for every child in need.

Investing in preschool and affordable childcare will not only help our children, but will also greatly benefit our workforce. As more preschools and childcare centers are available, more families can get back to work without worrying about their child's well-being.

This is our opportunity to help struggling families and take bold action to create a just and equitable post-COVID economy. I urge my colleagues to invest in our care economy by supporting the American Families Plan Act.

We just can't go back to the way things were before. We have to be bold and act with urgency to give families and parents access to the resources they need to help our country bounce back stronger than ever before.

Let me just close with a short anecdote, a short story. This happened on the weekend, the Friday before the Memorial Day weekend. I, as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, joined Secretary McDonough in a ceremony to honor our Nation's veterans at the Quantico cemetery. I met the commander of the base, who has responsibility not just for the Marine base that is there but also the FBI training center. There are a number of different facilities that are sort of associated with the base.

We just got in a chat, and I wasn't fishing for any sort of answers from him or any information. But I said: What has been your biggest challenge, in terms of reopening your base?

He said: Congressman, quite surprisingly to me, the biggest challenge has been childcare. That is what has held us back, and that has been my biggest challenge as a base commander.

I said: Do you think other base commanders across the country have had the same challenge?

He said: Yes.

This challenge of providing quality childcare and preschool is something

that is really holding our road to recovery back, and it is slowing it down. The American Families Plan is a sound and substantive answer to meeting this challenge.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), my friend.

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from the great State of New York for his leadership. In such a short period of time, what he has demonstrated to all of us about being a leader, I applaud him for this.

I am pleased to join with my colleagues in the Progressive Caucus as we continue to advocate for President Biden's American Families Plan and investing in the care economy.

That means things like funding for high-quality, affordable childcare, including universal pre-K; making sure that childcare costs do not exceed 7 percent of income for working families; ensuring that childcare workers, who are largely women and people of color, have a \$15 minimum wage—let me repeat that—ensuring that childcare workers, who are largely women and people of color, have a \$15 minimum wage; and meaningful investments in Medicare home and community-based services, which would help workers in the home care industry.

Everyone would like to say they are pro-family and pro-children. This is the chance to prove it.

Earlier this month, I joined with SEIU members in Philadelphia to rally for passing \$400 billion for caregiving. I told them funding for childcare and other caregiving is essential, since we actually want people to be able to go back to work.

We started this year off big and bold with \$1.9 trillion in the American Rescue Plan. That was a big step in the right direction. It was a down payment.

The American people voted into office a Democratic President, a Democratic Senate, and a Democratic House. As we promise to build back better, they expect us to do more than just reset the calendar to February 2020. The old normal wasn't so great for millions of Americans, including many Philadelphians I represent. They deserve better than the old normal. The American Families Plan would do a lot to deliver on our promise. Let's get it done.

Again, I thank Mr. BOWMAN for his leadership and the importance of this leadership and all the members of the Progressive Caucus demonstrating how we are going to lead the charge.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR), my friend.

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, as our country recovers from this devastating pandemic, it is critical we prioritize our families. All working families deserve to thrive, and that starts with ensuring high-quality, affordable childcare.

This is a generational opportunity to invest in affordable, quality care for all

children, and I urge my colleagues not to let it go to waste.

Right now, the average cost of childcare for children under 5 is around \$10,000 a year. This amount is even higher for infants. In my home State of Minnesota, we have some of the highest childcare costs in the Nation, ranking fourth in the country.

A minimum-wage worker working full-time in my district in Minneapolis would have to work 30 weeks to cover the cost of childcare for one infant. This is unconscionable.

As a mom, I know how difficult it can be to find affordable childcare options and how a lack of childcare impacts all aspects of life, including the ability to graduate from college while taking care of young children or even the ability to find a job and thrive.

We need universal childcare and pre-K for all families, and we need to pay our childcare workers a living wage.

Ensuring affordable, quality care for every child and family would stimulate the economy and have a lasting benefit for children's development and growth.

The American Families Plan moves us closer to this goal by investing in universal preschool, ensuring childcare costs do not exceed 7 percent of income for working families, and guarantees childcare workers make a \$15 minimum wage.

I urge my colleagues to ensure that women and families are not left behind in our recovery. Families across America are counting on us to do the right thing.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. KAHELE), my brother.

Mr. KAHELE. Madam Speaker, mahalo also to my brother and my freshman colleague from New York for allowing me this opportunity to speak about something really important in our country, and that is the American Families Plan.

Today, I rise in support of our Nation's students, the future of America, an engaged generation of young Americans working to create a better future for our country. We must stand with them. The time is now to do that, as they embark on their journey to unlock their potential and achieve their dreams. But that journey starts with a quality education and the opportunity for higher education, the great equalizer in our society.

□ 1915

Now, our children wield tremendous potential and remind us to dream big. However, too many of our students do not have that opportunity because of the high costs of public higher education. Skyrocketing tuition, application fees, student fees, overpriced textbooks, meal plans, dorm plans all contribute to \$1.4 trillion in crushing student debt and are barriers preventing all of America's children from pursuing higher education.

The American Families Plan will change that. The American Families

Plan will enable the opportunity for every student across the country to obtain a degree or certificate through a community college for free.

The American Families Plan is built to invest in our children from early childhood through postsecondary education. Most importantly, this plan recognizes the importance of investing in access to community college.

Each year thousands of students in my home State of Hawaii benefit from community colleges across our islands, but unfortunately just 50 percent of those students are able to complete a postsecondary degree of any kind within 6 years of enrolling. As a product of community college myself, and an educator, I know how these public institutions can positively impact our most disadvantaged communities, which is why for so long I have fought to remove barriers to higher education.

The American Families Plan will redefine access to education, taking the long overdue step of ensuring 2 years of free community college for all students. This opportunity will invest in the future of our students, prepare them to compete and succeed in a highly competitive global economy, and level the playing field.

Every child in our country deserves the opportunity to live the American Dream, but in order to achieve that, we must believe, all of us must believe that we all have a stake in each other's prosperity.

President Biden's vision in the American Families Plan is a defining moment in our Nation's history and will give American children head starts and pave the way for the best-educated generation in U.S. history.

America's students have an amazing opportunity to pursue education beyond high school. Let us give them that opportunity.

Mahalo, Madam Speaker, and my colleague from New York.

Mr. BOWMAN. Thank you so much, Mr. KAHELE. I now yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, it is great to stand here with Representative BOWMAN, with our colleague JAN SCHAKOWSKY, with Mr. KAHELE, with all of our brothers and sisters in Congress to say that we can and we must, and we will do so much better right now for our working parents, our workers, our kids.

As we recover from the pandemic and Build Back Better, we can't forget about the people who make up what we call the care economy—nursing home workers, home caregivers, childcare providers, and others who work every day to better the lives of other people.

Why is care work so important? The care economy has been central to my own life. I started my career helping nursing home workers organize with SEIU, but I think most parents can tell you about the importance of childcare in their own words.

Personally, I think back to the birth of my first son, Koby, and how so much

of those early years were spent juggling schedules with my wife to raise our son. I would stay home with the baby during the day so Mary could teach in public school, and then she would rush home and tap in while I took law school classes in the afternoon and evening. Ultimately, we had three kids under 5 in the house and later four kids altogether. It was joyful and exhilarating, but it was challenging and there was just no way we could have done it alone.

Providing quality childcare to every family in this country means providing every parent the opportunity to cherish raising their child or their children without fear of losing their income, of losing their job, of losing their career. Right now, in Michigan a year's worth of childcare for an infant costs well over \$10,000 on average. Who can afford that?

A record number of women have dropped out of the workforce during the pandemic. From August to September of last year alone, in one month, 865,000 women left the workforce. They didn't become unemployed. They left the workforce because of their responsibility for caregiving. And job gains in the recovery so far are disproportionately going to men.

In this crisis, we have an opportunity to Build Back Better and right this historic inequity. President Biden's American Families Plan and its investment in childcare won't just save families money by fully or partially covering their childcare costs. It will also create good-paying jobs that will go predominantly to women and people of color.

The poverty rate for early educators in my State of Michigan is 18.9 percent, much higher, almost double compared to the 10.8 percent rate for Michigan workers overall. Nearly half of U.S. childcare workers receive public income support. These statistics are totally unacceptable.

We need to take better care of the people taking care of our children and our seniors, and we can start by raising their wages to \$15 an hour by 2025 with no subminimum wages. That would lead to higher quality care and allow workers to provide for their own families.

Let's remember, high quality childcare and preschool don't just benefit working parents and the workers involved. They benefit our kids most of all. The data on the return on investment of investing in early education in childcare is overwhelming in terms of these kids' whole lives, their academic accomplishment, their earnings later in life.

There is so much at stake. We can't afford to let childcare become a bargaining chip in the next round of negotiations. Strengthening families, creating jobs, and giving kids the support they need to thrive should be the centerpiece of our work, not an afterthought. I am thrilled that the President's plan recognizes that.

Our work in this space won't end once we get the American Families

Plan signed into law. I believe we need to create a system of free universal childcare and that our caregivers deserve far better pay, benefits, training, and protection across the board. The American Families Plan is a great start and brings us closer to that goal. Let's get it done.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. BOWMAN for his leadership in this.

Mr. BOWMAN. I now yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I appreciate Congressman BOWMAN's organizing this on behalf of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, which I am so proud to be a member of, and I really am grateful to him.

Let me just say this in no uncertain terms. Care infrastructure is infrastructure, and it is especially true for women whose opportunities are often limited because we don't really have a working care economy right now.

Every single day nearly 10,000 people turn 65 years old in the United States of America, and yet we do not have in the United States a long-term-care policy. Think about it. The United States of America does not have a real long-term-care policy.

Every family tries to figure out for itself, What are we going to do when grandma and grandpa get older? What are we going to do when I get older? What is the plan? Most people when they retire or have to retire actually don't have enough money to really make the kinds of decisions that they need to and will come up.

Of the people who turn 65, between 50 and 70 percent at that time need some sort of support or care. Where does that come from? Let me be clear; it mostly comes from women.

There is a sociologist who says many countries have a safety net; the United States has women. Paid and unpaid caregivers are women.

Let's talk about the paid caregivers first. People who work in nursing homes, people who work in home care. They make an average of about \$12 an hour, with no benefits. You can't live on that. They certainly can't plan for their retirement and to pay for someone to care for them.

And so what do we do? It is pretty clear what has to be done, and actually the Biden administration has actually begun to do it, because everyone should be able to provide and care for their families at any age, for childcare, and certainly for long-term care for the elderly, which is a particular concern of mine.

I am the co-chair of the Democratic Caucus Task Force on Aging and Families, and I am proud of that, coming up with proposals that are going to help our elderly. It is projected that right now we will need about 4 million additional caregivers, people who are either paid or unpaid, by 2028. That is just really around the corner. 4 million. We do not have enough.

First of all, we have to pay the workers a living wage. Now, President Biden

has come up with a plan for \$400 billion for home and community-based care. That is a lot of money. It can be a game changer.

The idea is to be able to provide more money, more wages for those who suit up every day and go to work, and during the pandemic often in very dangerous situations where they don't have enough of the PPE, the personal protective equipment, to take care of them and protect them against the virus. They suit up every day and go to work and can barely take care of their own families.

And what about all the women who have had to leave the workforce because they did not have anyone to care for their children or for their parents or both? The sandwich generation has to worry about making sure that they have someone to care for their children and someone who will help them to take care of their elderly relatives. That burden has fallen on women who have ended up having to leave the workforce.

We need to act now. We need to act to fill this gap, to have a real program for long-term care, to have real help for childcare so that women can go to work to care for their families, to have the income that it really takes.

This is not rocket science. It is that we need to pay attention. We need to have the policies in place. We need to have the infrastructure in place, the plan on how we are going to deliver the care that is needed. Without it, we will not be able to move forward economically in this country, and certainly women will pay, especially pay, the price, and often it is women that are low income, women of color that suffer.

□ 1930

So I am happy that we are seeing the Biden administration, we are seeing the Democrats, we are seeing the progressives move forward with that plan that will actually provide the infrastructure we need.

And let me just end by saying that care infrastructure is infrastructure.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY), my friend and sister.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York, my friend and colleague, for convening us this evening.

Care work is the backbone of our Nation's economy. Yet, for too long, policymakers have failed to make the critical investments needed to ensure that everyone, at all stages of life, has access to the high-quality care they need and deserve, and that our care workers are compensated for their essential work with livable wages. Their work is essential and so, too, are their lives.

I rise today on behalf of our Nation's care workers, whose labor continues to be undervalued, undermined, and unprotected, despite its essential role in our society.

I rise to lend my voice to the thousands of care workers, disproportionately Black and Brown women, who spend hours upon hours meeting the care needs of others, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Caregivers often juggling work while also providing care for their own families and struggling to cover the most basic of needs.

I want to take a moment to speak specifically on the critical role of home and community-based services. During the COVID-19 crisis and long before, these services have been a lifeline, supporting people from all walks of life with critical medical care in their home or community. This is an issue of quality care, of healthcare justice, of disability justice, and of liberty.

Again, throughout the pandemic, home and community-based services were a lifeline for so many, but the infrastructure needs resources. The Biden administration has proposed a historic investment in HCBS to meet the scale of the need and demand. This proposed investment is an investment in healthcare justice, but also an investment in human infrastructure, in our essential workers.

We must make these services readily available and compensate our home care workers, the majority of whom are women of color, with a living wage.

To build back better, we must center the people. We must invest in our communities and affirm that a better world is possible, a more just world, where every person can thrive.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to legislate our values and to create a more just and caring America that takes care of everyone who calls this great Nation home.

Passing a robust infrastructure package that affirms care is infrastructure would leave a profound legacy.

Today, on the floor of the House of Representatives, we reaffirm our commitment to building a nation where every person can live and thrive with dignity.

As we craft a legislative response that actualizes that vision, we must make plain that what is needed in this moment of unprecedented economic crisis is bold, intentional legislation that recognizes the dignity and humanity of all workers, and affirms the right to meaningful, dignified work and a livable wage.

Earlier this year, I introduced a congressional resolution calling for a Federal job guarantee, which would provide every person in America with an enforceable legal right to a quality job. Extending beyond a project-based approach, our resolution calls for the creation of Federal jobs on projects that meet long-neglected community, physical and human infrastructure needs, such as delivering high-quality care for children and seniors, building and sustaining 21st century transit systems, strengthening our neighborhoods, and protecting the environment.

That is the type of bold, necessary approach we should bring to this process and beyond.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many of these challenges and laid bare the deep inequities and disparities in our Nation.

From paid family and medical leave to home and community-based services, to universal childcare, to a dignified living wage and beyond, the people demand responsive policy that speaks to their lived experiences and struggles. The people are counting on us to deliver.

So let me make it plain: Any infrastructure package must deliver for our care workers, and it must take care of the people, because the care economy is critical infrastructure.

In this moment, as we fight for a strong economic recovery, we must also work to build a better, a more just, and more equitable economy than ever before.

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, the American Families Plan recognizes that childcare is infrastructure, and that it is not enough to settle for any childcare that enables a parent to go to work. This needs to be high-quality childcare that every child can access.

Babies are born learners, and it is well established by brain science that a child's environment and interactions in the first 1,000 days of life, whether positive or negative and long before they enter a kindergarten classroom, are highly formative during this critical period for learning and growth.

When those formative early childhood experiences include inadequate nutrition, homelessness on other adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, such as those brought on by a global pandemic, we know that a child's brain and body are changed in ways that are linked to poor health and learning outcomes later in life.

Without reliable supports in place to buffer our kids from the stress, that stress can quickly turn toxic.

The good news is that ACEs are preventable on a national scale if we are collectively willing to put in the investment worthy of our kids.

As the Representative for New York's 16th District and a former educator and school leader, I believe our goal for healthy early childhood development needs to be more ambitious than the prevention of ACEs, which aims to protect our kids from the worse effects of stress and trauma. That should be the floor.

We, ourselves, need to move past a scarcity framework and embrace a framework of shared abundance.

That looks like affordable, reliable access to quality childcare where young children, in the context of an intergenerational community, are empowered to explore themselves and their world with pure wonder; where they grow into self-directed learners, collaborative leaders, and adaptive community-centered problem solvers.

Madam Speaker, I now would like to speak a little bit about the child tax

credit. The child tax credit has been in place for years, and it is supposed to help offset the many expenses of raising children. This includes food, childcare, diapers, healthcare, clothing, and taxes.

But before the American Rescue Plan, it wasn't accessible to the families who needed it most because it wasn't fully refundable. Families that didn't earn enough income could not benefit.

The American Rescue Plan changed that when it enacted a much-needed expansion of the child tax credit, making it fully refundable and increasing the maximum credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per child up through age 17, and \$3,600 per child for children under age 6.

Because of the American Rescue Plan, nearly 66 million children will benefit from the child tax credit, making this the single largest contributor to reducing child poverty.

In my district, which includes the Bronx and Westchester, 124,400 children will gain from the expanded child tax credit.

The average benefit for 41,800 households in my district is \$2,800, lifting 9,200 children out of poverty and 4,700 children out of deep poverty.

This is historic, but we can't be satisfied with reducing child poverty. We need to completely end child poverty and eliminate it.

The American Families Plan would extend the child tax credit increases from the American Rescue Plan through 2025. The infrastructure we want for building back better shouldn't tolerate childhood poverty, and the American Families Plan moves us forward on that necessary path.

Before I close, I want to use my time on the House floor to share the experience of a New Yorker who needs home care services and wrote into my office. Her experience seeking care paints a very telling picture about the state of our care economy, and makes the case for the strong investments in the American Families Plan that we have heard tonight.

She shared that seniors and people with disabilities like her struggle to find the home care she needs because the job pays under \$13 an hour in most of New York State.

One week into the COVID lockdown, her home health aide contracted the virus from a relative, a nursing home worker who contracted it through their own caregiving job.

The first health aide has been unable to return to work because the virus has caused long-term complications from their immediate family members, for whom they are the primary caregiver.

Just 1 week after her first health aide contracted the virus, a second health aide fell ill.

While the second health aide did recover, the health aide's childcare provider closed permanently.

The second health aide wants to return to work, but, due to the low

wages, they are unable to afford childcare.

Not being able to find a full-time health aide to provide her care means she is unable to receive assistance with all of her needs. Some days she only gets help to eat and use the toilet once per day. She cannot shower as frequently as she would like.

She shared: "I live in constant fear that should something happen to my health aide, that my literal independence will be taken from me overnight. I don't know when this situation will improve, and I have no other resources to lean on should my situation worsen."

The solution, however, is simple. We need home care jobs to be recognized and treated as quality, dignified jobs with family-sustaining wages. If we pay home care workers a living wage, these jobs will be filled immediately because of the high demand. We need to ensure our home care jobs never become minimum wage jobs again.

I want to thank her for sharing her personal experience and allowing me to share it tonight. It goes to show how connected and interdependent we all are on one another and the care economy.

We need to meet this dire moment with a substantial, transformative investment in the care economy, and we must do that with the American Families Plan.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, we are back here after 3 weeks in our districts, and I think our minds should probably be on the border and the thousands of people—tens of thousands of people streaming across every month, or perhaps on the economic problems caused by higher inflation. But, instead, there was a few brief statements made by one of our prominent TV anchors that causes me to feel I have to speak tonight.

While we were gone, we celebrated both Memorial Day and the hundreds of thousands of American soldiers who have died for our freedoms. We celebrated another anniversary of D-day, the landing in Europe. And when we think about Memorial Day, we can't help but remember other names of battles during World War II: Okinawa, Iwo Jima, the Battle of the Midway, the Battle of the Bulge, as well as all the soldiers who died fighting the communists in Vietnam and Korea.

It is a time for superlatives talking about the heroic efforts of these great men and women.

Unfortunately, on a formerly major network, NBC or MSNBC, Brian Williams decided to compare or supposedly

compliment all of our brave troops by comparing them to people who fight under the most evil banner I think that has existed, or one of the two most evil banners that has existed in the last 100 years, and that is the banner of antifa.

□ 1945

Antifa is an organization. If we had their flag here before us, it is virtually identical to the flag used by the communists in the early 1920s in Nazi Germany. The socialist flag at the time, the communist flag, allied with the Soviet Union, which at the time millions of people were dying as they adjusted to life without the czar and life under communism.

The Soviet armies were soon responsible for killing millions and millions of Ukrainians as they guarded the food so the kulaks would starve to death, the communist armies that in Red China caused tens of millions of deaths, the communist armies in Cambodia, these countries with their anti-God philosophy, proud in Red China when the final Christian churches were closed.

Of all things, to compare our troops at D-day with antifa, I cannot imagine a greater insult to give these soldiers. I wish more of them were still alive so they could respond to seeing on television a TV anchor trying to compare them—these brave men to keep the world free—to compare them to antifa, a group whose flag is almost identical to the communist flag.

By the way, it is not surprising that we have a red flag for Nazi Germany and a red flag for the Soviet Union. Red at the time stood for socialism.

Our young children should be educated on the comparisons between the two. During the 1920s, there were times when both ideologies entered into joint strikes because they both wanted to get rid of what existed of a free country in Germany at the time.

We would like to hear from NBC. Shame on you, NBC, the once-proud network. Would you respond to the statements by Brian Williams comparing the men who died at D-day, the men who landed on European soil to free Europe? Will you respond to your anchor implying they were the equivalent of antifa, a group connected with communism? Shame on that once-proud number one network in America. What do you think of what you have done?

The next issue I would like to comment on that I heard about again and again when I was back is an issue that is not surprising. To a certain extent, some of the policies of the past are responsible for this, but recently, we have had a new round of checks go out, a greater increase in the money supply, both M1 and M2.

Not surprising, when the government prints money, we see an increase in the amount of gasoline, an increase in food prices led by an increase in soybeans, an increase in lumber, and massive increases in homebuilding.

I am scared to death for the younger generation as a new economic ideology seems to have taken over in which there is a feeling that you can spend yourself into prosperity. When I look at the degree to which housing costs have skyrocketed within the last year, it is perhaps not surprising, given the degree to which money is being printed. But it is going to be much more difficult for a young couple to buy that first house today compared to 12 years ago.

It is important that everybody in this Chamber sit back and question the idea that is being approved by the Federal Reserve that America can become wealthier just by printing money. America will not become wealthier by printing money. America will have inflation, and that inflation will strike hardest at commodity prices and hardest at housing.

So everybody in this Chamber, before we vote for any more spending bills, ought to look at the rather boring charts of M1 and M2 as we analyze the money supply and look at the cost of all commodities over the last year as this Chamber has decided that the way to create prosperity is to print more money.

I do feel it is also important to address one more time the crisis at the border and the variety of bad things happening because of that crisis and not caring like we did only a few months ago as to who crosses the border.

I don't think we have spent enough time addressing the drug crisis in America. It has been around so long, it becomes boring even to think about it. Except recently, we hit the point at which 90,000 Americans had died of drug overdoses in a 12-month period.

When I talk to people at the border or my local drug enforcement administration, they both agree that this is in part happening because more drugs are coming across the border. In part, it is predictable that more drugs are coming across the border because it is easier to get across the border. More people are crossing the border. But even more so, as marijuana becomes legalized in the country, it is no longer profitable to bring marijuana across the southern border.

I heard an anecdote of a significant amount of marijuana coming across the border, and the people who owned it couldn't sell it. Because the marijuana produced by the now-legalized agriculture operations in the United States—not surprisingly, because we now do genetic engineering, that sort of thing—the marijuana produced in the United States in States like Colorado and Washington is superior to the marijuana brought across the Mexican border.

Well, if the Mexican drug cartels cannot make money selling marijuana or bringing marijuana across the border, how are they going to make it up? They are going to make it up by bringing more and more dangerous drugs—meth, cocaine, heroin, but above all, fentanyl. They are going to bring more and more fentanyl across the southern border. Now, we have 90,000 deaths in this country in 1 year.

A little bit of my district touches Milwaukee County, not a huge county, by nationwide standards, about a million people. Last year, 540 people died of drug overdoses in Milwaukee County. There were about 200 murders, which is the all-time record, and everybody couldn't believe 200 murders. There were over 500 illegal overdoses.

Now, what do we do about that? Well, clearly, one of the things we have to do is we have to prevent these drugs from coming into the country in the first place. It is disappointing that we put the security of the border on the back burner and think of excuses not to deal with it.

But in addition to thinking of all the people running across the border, take a minute to think about the 90,000 people, many very young people, dying primarily of fentanyl but also other illegal drug overdoses, and ask yourself: What is this body going to do to stop it?

Of course, other problems are at the border. We have gone from checking in or touching about 17,000 people a month to 180,000 people a month. As far as got-aways, people who aren't even checked in, our Border Patrol estimates we have gone from about 6,000 this time last year to about 30,000 now—just massive increases.

I would guess between got-aways and people who are checked into the country, we are looking at 60,000 or 70,000 a month instead of under 10,000 a month at this time last year. It is truly a crisis.

Quite frankly, this body ought to be doing nothing else but dealing with that crisis until it is solved. The fact that we had under 10,000 people crossing the border only 4 or 5 months ago shows it is not something we don't know how to solve or that it is impossible to solve. It is that we are willingly allowing a massive increase across the border.

Of course, that massive increase, since the drug cartels charge people to come here, also increases the power of those drug cartels, both in the United States and their country. It, to a degree, results in separation of children from their families, as unaccompanied children come here, as well as a given number of children are probably rented by people to come here because they know supposed intact families have a better chance of being allowed in this country than single people, who are still frequently turned around.

In any event, there is a brief summary of issues. I hope I was enjoyable. And I hope NBC will let us know what they were thinking when Brian Williams decided to say that our soldiers landing on D-day were like antifa.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 7 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2021, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2021.

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☐

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 290, To amend title 38, United States Code, to render an individual, who transfers certain educational assistance, to which the individual is entitled because of an agreement by such individual to serve in the Armed Forces, to a dependent of that individual, and who fails to complete such agreement, solely liable for the overpayment of such educational assistance, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 539, the Preventing Disaster Revictimization Act, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 539

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—													
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2021– 2026	2021– 2031	
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	4	0	0	–1	–1	–2	0	0	0	0	2	0	

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 1443, the LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 1703, the National Children’s Museum Act, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 1703

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—													
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2021– 2026	2021– 2031	
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	10	

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 2332, the Debt Bondage Repair Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 3325, To award four congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protected the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 3642, the Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

EC-1337. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Terry R. Ferrell, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1338. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General John F. Thompson, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1339. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation [Docket ID: DoD-2018-OS-0055] (RIN: 0790-AK41) received June 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1340. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Expediting Contract Closeout (DFARS Case 2017-D042) [Docket DARS-2019-0047] (RIN: 0750-AJ52) received June 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1341. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Authori-

ties for Minimizing the Use of Materials Containing Hexavalent Chromium (DFARS Case 2020-D031) [Docket DARS-2020-0045] (RIN: 0750-AL17) received June 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1342. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Andrew L. Lewis, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1343. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s Major final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2022 and Pharmacy Benefit Manager Standards [CMS-9914-F2] (RIN: 0938-AU18) received May 19, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1344. A letter from the Chief, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Establishing Emergency Connectivity Fund to Close the Homework Gap [WC Docket No.: 21-93] received May 19, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1345. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-93, "Green Food Purchasing Amendment Act of 2021", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1346. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 24-95, "Commercial Insurance Claim Tolling Temporary Act of 2021", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1347. A letter from the Interim Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission, transmitting the Commission's 2021 Semi-Annual Inspector General report, pursuant to section 5(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1348. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1349. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period ending March 31, 2021, pursuant to Public Law 95-452; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1350. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's semiannual report from the Office of Inspector General for the period of October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1351. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the semiannual reports to Congress from the Treasury Inspector General and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration covering the reporting period of October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1352. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress, covering the period ending March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1353. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting the Board's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1354. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, USCIS, Office of Policy and Strategy, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Exercise of Time-Limited Authority to Increase the Fiscal Year 2021 Numerical Limitation for the H-2B Temporary Nonagricultural Worker Program and Portability Flexibility for H-2B Workers Seeking to Change Employers [CIS No.: 2689-21] (RIN: 1615-AC72) received June 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1355. A letter from the Chairman, Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Demurrage Billing Requirements [Docket No.: EP 759] received June 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1356. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Voluntary Education Programs [Docket ID: DOD-2019-OS-0076] (RIN: 0790-AJ95) received June 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1357. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare Program: Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement Model Three-Year Extension and Changes to Episode Definition and Pricing; Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Policies and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency [CMS-5529-F] (RIN: 0938-AU01) received May 19, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 3886. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue Clean Energy Victory Bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 3887. A bill to authorize the President to impose sanctions with respect to any foreign person the President determines engages in public or private corruption activities that adversely affect a United States person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BACON (for himself and Mr. LAMB):

H.R. 3888. A bill to amend the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016 to extend the pilot program authorized by such Act; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 3889. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide an option to claim a delayed retirement credit in a partial lump sum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 3890. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to address physician assistant training needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself and Mrs. WAGNER):

H.R. 3891. A bill to require a study and report on the housing and service needs of survivors of trafficking and individuals at risk for trafficking; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself and Mr. MAST):

H.R. 3892. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to provide for ocean-based climate solutions to reduce carbon emissions and global warming; to make coastal communities more resilient; and to provide for the conservation and restoration of ocean and coastal habitats, biodiversity, and marine mammal and fish populations; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. WENSTRUP):

H.R. 3893. A bill to improve kidney disease research, prevention, surveillance, and treatment in minority populations and rural and underserved communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 3894. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue and disseminate guidance to States to clarify strategies to address social determinants of health under the Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BOWMAN (for himself, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, and Mrs. TRAHAN):

H.R. 3895. A bill to establish collective bargaining rights for college athletes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 3896. A bill to amend the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 to authorize support in high-income economy countries for projects involving development or processing of covered critical materials if such support furthers the national security interests of the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CUELLAR (for himself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. HARRIS):

H.R. 3897. A bill to make improvements to the H-2B nonimmigrant worker program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 3898. A bill to require the disclosure of a camera or recording capability in certain internet-connected devices; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, and Mr. HUIZENGA):

H.R. 3899. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to require the Financial Stability Oversight Council to consider alternative approaches before determining that a U.S. nonbank financial company shall be supervised by the Board of Governors of

the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 3900. A bill to provide for parental notification and intervention in the case of an unemancipated minor seeking an abortion; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. CLOUD, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. BABIN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 3901. A bill to award four congressional gold medals to the United States Capitol Police and those who protect the U.S. Capitol; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:

H.R. 3902. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a pilot program for intermodal transportation infrastructure grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 3903. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain income with respect to partnership interests held in connection with the performance of services as ordinary income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 3904. A bill to increase the annual funding for the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Fund, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and the Offices of Minority Health within the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Food and Drug Administration, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to enable the United States and State departments of public health to better combat disparities that have emerged during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HERN (for himself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 3905. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to waive the 2-year duration of divorce requirement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 3906. A bill to establish a Blue Carbon program to conserve and restore marine and coastal blue carbon ecosystems, and other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. TLAI, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 3907. A bill to prohibit biometric surveillance by the Federal Government without explicit statutory authorization and to

withhold certain Federal public safety grants from State and local governments that engage in biometric surveillance; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAMB (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 3908. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for funding for off-system bridges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. LURIA (for herself and Mr. NEHLS):

H.R. 3909. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2021, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 3910. A bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to give the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection rulemaking and enforcement authority over the safeguards rule with respect to data aggregators and other financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 3911. A bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to establish procedures for disclosures by financial institutions of non-public personal information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 3912. A bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to require consumers to opt in before a financial institution may share the nonpublic personal information of the consumer with a nonaffiliated third party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MCHENRY (for himself, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BARR, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. HILL, Mr. EMMER, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. BUDD, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. ROSE, Mr. STEIL, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. TAYLOR):

H.R. 3913. A bill to provide for expedited payment of emergency rental assistance funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself and Mr. BERGMAN):

H.R. 3914. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to permit individuals to select a monthly benefit payment date; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 3915. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to improve social security benefits for widows and widowers in two-income households, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 3916. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to strengthen Social Security for long career workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:

H.R. 3917. A bill to ensure that a declaration for a major disaster or emergency is made on a timely basis, rural areas receive assist-

ance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 3918. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to permit the Federal Trade Commission to enforce such Act against certain tax-exempt organizations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCALISE (for himself and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 3919. A bill to ensure that the Federal Communications Commission does not approve radio frequency devices that pose a national security risk; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SUOZZI (for himself, Mr. COLE, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 3920. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax credit parity for geothermal heat pump property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. WALORSKI:

H.R. 3921. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the retirement earnings test, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 3922. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to members of the Chinese Communist Party and heads of Chinese health agencies relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Education and Labor, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 475. A resolution electing a certain Member to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. OMAR, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H. Res. 476. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding wasteful Pentagon spending and supporting cuts to the bloated defense budget; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ISSA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. COSTA, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H. Res. 477. A resolution recognizing the significance of the California Waterfowl Association on its 75th anniversary; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. VELA (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H. Res. 478. A resolution commending the men and women of the United States military, our NATO Allies, and our African allies who successfully planned, coordinated, deployed, and trained as part of the DEFENDER-EUROPE 2021 Exercise; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 3886.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clauses 1 and 3.

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 3887.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 3888.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 3889.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to 'provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.'

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 3890.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the United States Constitution, providing—"All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 3891.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 3892.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 3893.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:

H.R. 3894.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BOWMAN:

H.R. 3895.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The commerce clause of the Constitution gives Congress the power to regulate labor law.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 3896.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I; Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 3897.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 3898.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 3899.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 3900.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

"The Congress shall have Power . . . to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

Congress shall have Power . . . "To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 3901.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:

H.R. 3902.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 3903.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 3904.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. HERN:

H.R. 3905.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Constitution of the United States of America

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 3906.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.R. 3907.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LAMB:

H.R. 3908.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. LURIA:

H.R. 3909.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 5 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 3910.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 3911.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 3912.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 3913.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3:

Authority to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18:

Authority to create laws that are necessary and proper to carry out the laws of the land (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 3914.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 3915.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 3916.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:

H.R. 3917.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes,

Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States;

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 3918.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 3919.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SUOZZI:

H.R. 3920.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. WALORSKI:

H.R. 3921.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to 'provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.'

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 3922.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: [The Congress shall have Power . . .] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United

States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 18: Mr. VAN DREW and Mr. COMER.
H.R. 40: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 55: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 82: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H.R. 263: Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BEYER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 302: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 332: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
H.R. 475: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 477: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 521: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 556: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 605: Mr. CAWTHORN.
H.R. 606: Mr. EMMER.
H.R. 783: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 812: Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 835: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 845: Ms. LETLOW.
H.R. 864: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 889: Mrs. SPARTZ.
H.R. 933: Mr. ROY.
H.R. 951: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. BERA, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 959: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 963: Mr. MFUME, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 978: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 1008: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1012: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BACON, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 1025: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 1035: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1057: Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. VAN DREW, and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 1140: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 1145: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. DELGADO, and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1183: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1210: Mr. COMER.
H.R. 1235: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 1273: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 1284: Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 1334: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 1348: Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 1368: Mr. PETERS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. NEWMAN.
H.R. 1381: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 1404: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 1436: Mr. CASE and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 1456: Mr. MOULTON and Ms. PRESSLEY.
H.R. 1527: Mr. MCKINLEY and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 1534: Mr. HARRIS and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 1561: Mr. TIFFANY.
H.R. 1593: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 1611: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 1623: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1624: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1641: Mr. BROWN and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 1676: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 1693: Mr. LUCAS and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1712: Mr. BUCHANAN and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 1730: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1745: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. HAGEDORN, Ms. VAN DUYN,

Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. GARCIA of California.
H.R. 1758: Mr. ROY and Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 1760: Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 1842: Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. DELGADO, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. MCCARTHY, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 1861: Ms. CRAIG, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1904: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 1909: Mr. CRIST.
H.R. 1916: Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 1918: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 1924: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 1933: Mr. COHEN, Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1959: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 1974: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 1986: Mr. CASTEN and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1992: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio and Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 2011: Mrs. HAYES and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2028: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 2029: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2035: Mr. LAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 2040: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 2062: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. NEAL, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BASS, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 2085: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 2099: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 2102: Mr. COHEN and Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 2119: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 2120: Ms. CRAIG and Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 2121: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 2141: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 2143: Mr. BACON, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. KATKO, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. UPTON, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MCCOUL, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2166: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 2168: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 2169: Mr. BANKS and Mr. HICE of Georgia.
H.R. 2187: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 2214: Mr. MOORE of Utah and Mr. CARL.
H.R. 2222: Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 2234: Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 2256: Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 2262: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 2289: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 2294: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 2316: Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 2347: Mrs. TRAHAN and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 2372: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H.R. 2376: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2421: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 2451: Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 2471: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MAST, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Mr. GIMENEZ.
H.R. 2525: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2549: Ms. SCANLON and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 2586: Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. CRAIG, and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 2608: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 2611: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 2646: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 2662: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 2682: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2691: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 2709: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 2720: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 2748: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. NEGUSE, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. KIND, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BANKS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. BERA, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BUCK, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 2750: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 2811: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 2828: Mrs. FISCHBACH.
H.R. 2836: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2840: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2859: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 2886: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CHU, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 2903: Ms. DELBENE, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.
H.R. 2975: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 3044: Mr. CASE, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 3072: Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. SIRES, and Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 3076: Mr. SOTO, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. CASE, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HARDER of California, and Ms. MACE.
H.R. 3078: Mr. SOTO and Mr. GRIFFITH.
H.R. 3088: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 3093: Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 3113: Mrs. LEE of Nevada and Mr. OBERNOLTE.
H.R. 3115: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BASS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 3131: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 3148: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 3156: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, and Mr. CASE.
H.R. 3187: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3203: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 3235: Mr. CARTER of Texas and Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 3256: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 3268: Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 3269: Mr. BABIN and Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 3279: Ms. TLAI and Ms. PRESSLEY.
H.R. 3281: Mr. LATT and Mr. KUSTOFF.
H.R. 3294: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.
H.R. 3302: Mr. MAST and Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 3303: Mr. MOONEY.
H.R. 3306: Mr. FULCHER, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3312: Mr. CASTEN and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 3317: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 3335: Mr. EVANS and Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 3344: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
H.R. 3369: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 3373: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
H.R. 3374: Mr. CARL.
H.R. 3375: Mr. CARL.
H.R. 3382: Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 3385: Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. LURIA, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 3400: Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 3403: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 3426: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. RYAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. VELA.
H.R. 3440: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3445: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 3447: Mr. CAWTHORN.
H.R. 3451: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. WEXTON, and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 3485: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mr. MEEKS.
 H.R. 3488: Ms. BROWNLEY.
 H.R. 3489: Mr. DELGADO.
 H.R. 3492: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
 H.R. 3494: Ms. MACE.
 H.R. 3498: Mr. CASE, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. RYAN.
 H.R. 3513: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
 H.R. 3515: Mr. BOST, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 3518: Mr. POCAN.
 H.R. 3519: Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. ESHOO, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 3522: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. JONES.
 H.R. 3537: Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SOTO, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. DUNN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. EMMER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PETERS, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BERA, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Ms. STRICKLAND.
 H.R. 3548: Mr. POCAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. OMAR, Ms. BASS, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mrs. HAYES, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 3551: Mr. STAUBER and Mrs. KIM of California.

H.R. 3554: Mr. ALLEN and Mr. BUCHANAN.
 H.R. 3560: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 3572: Mr. HARDER of California.
 H.R. 3577: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
 H.R. 3589: Mr. GIBBS.
 H.R. 3602: Ms. HOULAHAN.
 H.R. 3621: Mr. WELCH and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
 H.R. 3631: Ms. UNDERWOOD and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H.R. 3642: Mr. CASTEN.
 H.R. 3648: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
 H.R. 3672: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
 H.R. 3685: Mrs. LURIA, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. TRONE, Ms. WILD, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MOONEY, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. CURTIS, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. BUCK.
 H.R. 3693: Mr. PAPPAS.
 H.R. 3699: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H.R. 3724: Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 3730: Mr. CASE.
 H.R. 3748: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 3755: Mrs. AXNE.
 H.R. 3757: Mr. CARSON and Ms. BROWNLEY.
 H.R. 3791: Mr. HARDER of California.
 H.R. 3807: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. VAN DREW.
 H.R. 3810: Mr. GAETZ.
 H.R. 3817: Ms. PINGREE and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.
 H.R. 3820: Mr. BOST.
 H.R. 3826: Mr. JONES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. NEGUSE, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 3833: Ms. SLOTKIN.
 H.R. 3835: Mr. LATTA.
 H.R. 3853: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. KHANNA.
 H.R. 3860: Mr. GOHMERT.
 H.R. 3867: Mr. CRIST.
 H.R. 3880: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
 H. J. Res. 48: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. WATERS.
 H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. COHEN, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. ADAMS.
 H. Con. Res. 32: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
 H. Con. Res. 34: Mr. BOST.
 H. Res. 47: Ms. DELAURO.
 H. Res. 109: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. LAMB.
 H. Res. 289: Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. BOST, and Mr. MEIJER.
 H. Res. 397: Mr. CARTER of Texas.
 H. Res. 407: Mr. KEATING, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. SAN NICOLAS.
 H. Res. 415: Mr. PALAZZO.
 H. Res. 437: Ms. SEWELL and Mr. COSTA.
 H. Res. 439: Ms. CHU.
 H. Res. 456: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. KIM of California, Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. JACOBS of California, and Mr. SUOZZI.
 H. Res. 465: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H. Res. 471: Ms. MENG.